# CityLife®
MAGAZINE

AUTUMN EDITION
2025

## Annual Wedding Feature

New Year, New You,
New Business Focus

Meet Jeremy Neal

# CHANGE YOUR SPARK, NOT YOUR FIRE.

Keep your essence. The all-new Macan.

**Porsche Centre Townsville**
15-17 Bowen Road
07 4729 5222
porschetownsville.com.au
Dealer License Number 4024046

Macan 4: Stromverbrauch kombiniert in kWh/100 km: 21,1–17,9 (WLTP); elektrische Reichweite in km: 516–613 (WLTP) · 665–784 (WLTP, innerorts); $CO_2$-Emissionen kombiniert in g/km: 0; Stand: 01/2024

# Benvenuto!

Discover Modern Italian dining at Ollies on the exclusive waterfront dining precinct in Cairns. Indulge in Australian steaks dry aged in house. fresh local seafood and artisan house made pasta and pizza. Let us take you on a culinary journey through the Bel Pæse (the beautiful country).

Open for Lunch and Dinner 7 days a week.

1 MARLIN PARADE, CAIRNS WATERFRONT DINING, CAIRNS

OLLIESITALIAN.COM.AU

P: (07) 4281 6814

AUSTRALIAN GOOD FOOD GUIDE

AGFG AWARD WINNER 2025

Ollie's Italian
Cairns, QLD

12

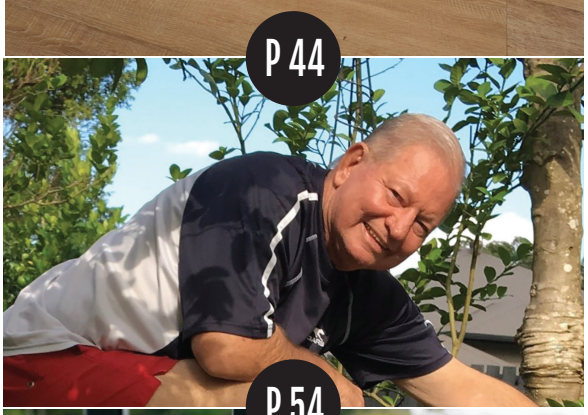
www.agfg.com.au

MAKE A RESERVATION

Ollie's ITALIAN

# CONTENTS

AUTUMN EDITION



06 **CITYLIFE WHAT'S ON**

09 **CITYLIFE WEDDING FEATURE**

30 **CITYLIFE HEALTH**

31 **CITYLIFE BUSINESS**

33 **CITYLIFE POLICE SPEAK**

43 **CITYLIFE ARTS**

44 **CITYLIFE TRIBUTE -**
REMEMBERING WARREN PITT AM

47 **CITYLIFE SOCIALS**

48 **CITYLIFE NEW YEAR NEW YOU FEATURE**

54 **CITYLIFE PROFILE -**
MEET JEREMY NEAL

60 **CITYLIFE FASHION & BEAUTY**

76 **CITYLIFE COMMUNITY NEWS**

# BE HEARD

**DANAE JONES**

CONSULTING

360° MARKETING

danaejones.com.au

# PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Well hasn't the year started off with some pretty serious weather activity across Queensland!

It has certainly catapulted us into the year with gusto, that's for sure. At the time of writing this Autumn edition Publisher's Note, it's the beginning of March, and we're all sitting back asking ourselves how the first quarter of the year is already coming to a close? The good news is, it's almost Easter, and many of us will get some well deserved downtime with your loved ones to catch our breathe.

The CityLife Annual Business Retreat is BACK! If you're in business or in a lead or management role within your organisation, this event is for you! See Daniel Flynn, Co-Founder of iconic international brand 'Thankyou.' as one of our keynote speakers, along with Media Personality and Social Commentator Jane Caro AM.

These two highly acclaimed speakers will lead a two day event dedicated to the business community of Far North Queensland with expert local presenters backing them up in key fields to help skyrocket your business success for the 2025-2026 financial year and beyond!

The Annual Business Retreat is the perfect blend of restoration and relaxation to usher in a New Financial Year full of positivity and a refreshed focus for attendees, as well as time to strategically map out a solid plan of attack with the guidance of local experts to give your business the best opportunity for success in the 2025-2026 period. So make sure you keep up to date on our social media platforms and website for all the latest speaker and program announcements – www.citylifemedia.com.au – this is an event not to be missed!

In this edition our Annual Wedding Feature showcases some stunning venues to tie the knot in our region and make your special day the most memorable it can possibly be. A long line of high quality local suppliers are also included as well as a detailed wedding planner to get you organised.

And as we head into the Federal Election our undefeated long time Federal Member for Leichhardt, the Honourable Warren Entsch MP is entering retirement and ushering in a new era. We caught up with LNP Candidate Jeremy Neal, who the party and Warren Entsch have endorsed as his successor, so you could meet the man behind the politics before election day.

Whichever way you intend to vote this election, get informed and across the policy and funding announcements of all candidates before making your decision. This election is an important one for us all – our nation faces challenges from a geopolitical perspective in terms of defence, trade and food security – so it's a time to make your vote count.

Cheers

*Danae*

xx

**CityLife Magazine®** is published quarterly by CityLife Media Pty Ltd March 2025 to May 2025. All material within the publication remains the property of the publishers unless permission is otherwise sought in writing. Those who make advertising placement and or supply editorial content to CityLife Magazine® undertake to ensure all material does not infringe copyright, trademark, defamation, libel, slander or title. The above mentioned patrons agree to indemnify the publishers against any investigations, claims or judgements. The views expressed in CityLife Magazine® are those of the contributors, and are not necessarily shared by the publication. CityLife Media Pty Ltd copyright March 2025 to May 2025.

**CityLife Media Pty Ltd**
371 Mulgrave Road, Cairns Q 4870
M: 0499 797 459

**Publisher**
**danae@citylifemedia.com.au**

**Advertising**
**hello@citylifemedia.com.au**

**Editorial**
**editorial@citylifemedia.com.au**

**Production**
**operations@citylifemedia.com.au**

**Events**
**events@citylifemedia.com.au**

**COVER IMAGE:**

Model:
Kayla McDermott

Photographed by:
Romy Bullerjahn

Styled by:
Lovena Bridal & Tokunai Hair

Location:
Hitcher's Love Shack

# NORLIFT
INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

"When your business needs a lift"

NORLIFT IS CELEBRATING 25 Years 2025 GIVING BUSINESSES A LIFT FOR 25 YEARS

**Proudly celebrating 25 years in business**

**4041 6767**
**www.norlift.com.au**

HYUNDAI
HIGH PERFORMANCE FORKLIFTS
The driver's choice

**HIRE • SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**

tufftyresfnq.com.au

**WHEREVER YOUR ROAD MAY LEAD YOU,**
**GET THERE AND BACK WITH TUFF TYRES FNQ**

**TUFF TYRES FNQ 2 GREAT LOCATIONS.**
LYONS ST CAIRNS **4035 3550** • BRODY CL GORDONVALE **4056 1772**

TUFF TYRES FNQ

# WHAT'S ON

## MAR 07
### CBWC INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY LUNCHEON

The Reef Hotel Casino
11:00am - 2:00pm
www.cbwc.org.au/cbwc-events-page

## MAR 07
### MAREEBA DRIVE IN SCREENING IN THE LOST LANDS AND CONCLAVE

Mareeba Drive In
7:15am
www.mareebadrivein.com.au

## MAR 08
### SARAH BLASKO - 'I JUST NEED TO CONQUER THIS MOUNTAIN' 2025 REGIONAL TOUR

Tanks art Centre - Tank 5
6:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/ticketlink/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/sarah-blasko-2025

## MAR 08
### OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2025

CPAC Theatre
7:00pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC

## MAR 11
### O, OPHELIA

Bulmba-ja Arts Centre
6:30pm
www.events.humanitix.com/o-ophelia

## MAR 13
### BREAKFAST SEMINAR - CLOSING THE LAST 'LOOPHOLE': WAGE THEFT AND COMPLIANCE

Seville Mercy Centre
7:30am- 9:30am
www.cairnschamber.com.au/events/MarBreakfast24

## MAR 16
### MARK VINCENT 'THE BEST SO FAR'

CPAC Theatre
2:00pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/mark-vincent-the-best-so-far

## MAR 18
### MARCH BUSINESS LUNCHEON - TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

Pullman Reef Hotel Casino
11:30am - 2:00pm
www.cairnschamber.com.au/events/MarLuncheon25

## MAR 22
### THE EAST POINTERS

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
7:15pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/ticketlink/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/the-east-pointers-2025

## MAR 23
### RUTHIE FOSTER

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
6:00pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/ticketlink/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/ruthie-foster

## MAR 25
### FRENCHY - EMBRACE THE CHAOS

CPAC Studio
8:00pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/comedy-shows/frenchy-embrace-the-chaos

## MAR 27
### TONI CHILDS - LIVE IN CONCERT: A RETROSPECTIVE

CPAC Theatre
7:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents

## MAR 28
### THE EAGLES GREATEST HITS

CPAC Theatre
7:30pm
www.ticketlink.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/the-eagles-greatest-hits

## MAR 28
### BONDI CIGARS

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
6:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/ticketlink/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/bondi-cigars

## MAR 31
**MORNING MELODIES - GREAT WOMEN OF COUNTRY**

CPAC Theatre
11:00am
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/morning-melodies-great-women-of-country

## APR 04
**CBWC BUSINESS AND BUBBLES - SAVE THE DATE!**

TBD
TBD
www.cbwc.org.au/cbwc-events-page

## APR 08
**THE BLACK BLUES BROTHERS**

CPAC Theatre
7:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/circus-and-physical-theatre/the-black-blues-brothers

## APR 11
**MOONTRICKS**

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
6:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/tribute-show/leaving-jackson-the-johnny-cash-and-june-carter-show

## APR 11
**LEAVING JACKSON - THE JOHNNY CASH AND JINE CARTER SHOW**

CPAC Theatre
7:30pm
www.cairnsperformingartscentre.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/tribute-show/leaving-jackson-the-johnny-cash-and-june-carter-show

## APR 11
**APRIL BUSINESS LUNCHEON - CAIRNS AIRPORT UPDATE**

Hilton Cairns
11:30am - 2:00pm
www.cairnschamber.com.au/events/AprLuncheon25

## APR 12
**THE BADLOVES**

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
7:10pm
www.ticketlink.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/the-badloves-2025

## APR 15
**THE SWEET CAROLINE TOUR: A TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND**

CPAC Theatre
7:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/tribute-show/the-sweet-caroline-tour-a-tribute-to-neil-diamond

## APR 19
**DION PRIDE SINGS THE SONGS OF HIS FATHER**

CPAC Theatre
7:00pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/tribute-show/dion-pride-sings-the-songs-of-his-father

## APR 24
**RUTH MOODY**

Tanks Arts Centre - Tank 5
6:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/ticketlink/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/ruth-moody-2025

## APR 24
**MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW 2025**

CPAC Theatre
6:30pm
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CPAC/ticketlinkEvents/comedy-shows/melbourne-international-comedy-festival-roadshow-2025

## MAY 03
**ANDREW GURRUWIWI BAND**

Tanks Art centre
6:30pm
www.ticketlink.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/popular-music/andrew-gurruwiwi-band-2025

## MAY 03
**MOYAMOYA AUSTRALIA SMOKEY BLUE RALLY**

Check in Cazaly's Cairns
9am
www.moyamoyaaustralia.org.au

## MAY 09 - 10
**CITYLIFE ANNUAL BUSINESS RETREAT**

Crystalbrook Riley Cairns
(Fri 9th) 10am - 8pm,
(Sat 10th) 9am - 5pm
www.citylifemedia.com.au

# TAMMY & JB

## FOR BREAKFAST

ALSO ON LISTNR

TRIPLE 99.5 NOVA

# The Ultimate Guide to Weddings in Cairns:

# *Make Your Big Day Unforgettable*

**COVER SHOOT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**
Photographer: Romy Photography
Models: Kayla McDermott & Rhys Thomas
Location: Hitcher's Love Shack
Dress: Lovena Bridal
Suit: MYER Cairns
Hair & Make Up: Tokunai Hair

Far North Queensland for years has been a bucket list location for many brides and grooms from across the world, looking to tie to knot in tropical paradise, putting our home on the map for many years.

Whether you're planning an intimate ceremony or a grand celebration, the region is home to an array of talented vendors who can bring your vision to life. From stunning venues to expert stylists and entertainment, here's a guide to some of Cairns' finest wedding professionals.

Seville Mercy Centre is a hidden gem that offers a serene and romantic setting, ideal for couples seeking a classic or religious wedding. The charming atmosphere and beautiful architecture make it a perfect place to exchange vows.

Shangri-La, The Marina, Cairns is perfect for those dreaming of a luxury waterfront wedding. It provides breathtaking views of the Coral Sea, exceptional service, and elegant event spaces that cater to both intimate and lavish celebrations.

The Reef Hotel Casino blends sophistication with excitement, offering elegant function spaces, world-class dining, and entertainment to ensure an unforgettable wedding experience. The newest wedding venue taking Cairns by storm is the Hitcher's Love Shack, now located in the little pink building on James Street.

From elopements and micro weddings to legals-only ceremonies, proposals, and private dining experiences, The Hitcher's Love Shack is a place where big moments shine in the most intimate settings. Every corner is filled with thoughtful details, making it a picture-perfect backdrop for love stories of all kinds.

If you are looking to add a 'wow factor' to your venue set-up, Claire Victoria Wedding Designs is known for exquisite wedding styling and floral arrangements, transforming venues into breathtaking wedding spaces that reflect each couple's unique love story.

After your big day, Blooming Keepsakes helps preserve wedding flowers as a lifelong memory, turning bridal bouquets into stunning keepsakes that can be cherished forever.

Lovena Bridal offers an exquisite collection of wedding dresses to suit every style. Their personalised service ensures each bride finds the perfect fit for her big day.

MYER provides a variety of fashion and beauty essentials, from bridal party attire to accessories and wedding gifts, helping you prepare for your wedding with style and elegance.

Tokunai Hair & Beauty is a go-to salon for bridal hair styling and professional makeup, ensuring that every bride looks flawless on her big day.

Xplosive Art adds a spark to celebrations with stunning fireworks and special effects. Their spectacular displays create a magical ambiance, making your wedding night truly unforgettable.

Retro RV provides beautifully restored vintage caravans that can serve as mobile bars, photo booths, or stylish lounge areas for guests to enjoy.

*Planning a wedding in Cairns is made easy with these top-tier local vendors.*

Whether you're after a luxurious seaside venue, personalised styling, stunning bridal fashion, or unique entertainment, Cairns has everything you need to make your special day truly remarkable. With their passion and expertise, these wedding professionals will ensure your celebration is as magical and memorable as your love story.

HITCHERS
Love Shack

Check us out at:

Cairns newest & tiniest wedding venue.

Filled with cute little corners and a whole lot of love, this is a space dedicated to celebrating some of life's big moments in the most intimate of settings.

We pride ourselves on being a place for everybody, an all-inclusive venue that caters to elopements, micro weddings, legals only, proposals, photo shoots, private dining experiences & much more.

hitchers.com.au | 26 James St, Cairns North | ph: 0480 566 039

*"Claire is lovely, she made our wedding truly beautiful and we will never forget it."*

Call us today for a no obligation, professional, consultation.

CLAIRE VICTORIA
*wedding design*

TIMELESS ELEGANCE, THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED

Wedding Planning & Coordination

Styling & Decoration

Stationery & Signage

Furniture Hire

*Special Offer:*

Book a Furniture Package and enjoy discounted Wedding Planning. Let's bring your vision to life with elegance and ease.

0439 445 724
info@clairevictoriaweddingdesign.com.au

CLAIREVICTORIAWEDDINGDESIGN.COM.AU

# Let's Get Hitched!

## The New Wedding Sensation In Cairns

Words By Ellie Fink

Photo caption: Stephane & Katie from Hitcher's Love Shack are taking the wheel when it comes to elopements and micro weddings in Cairns.

There was a time when weddings were synonymous with grand ballrooms, guest lists stretching into the hundreds, and towering, multi-tiered cakes. But in recent years, a quiet revolution has been unfolding in the wedding industry.

Small weddings and elopements are no longer just a budget-friendly alternative; they have become the "it" thing for modern couples looking to tie the knot on their own terms.

More than ever, couples are prioritising intimacy, experience, and personal connection over extravagant affairs. The pandemic accelerated the shift, forcing many to rethink their wedding plans, but even as restrictions eased, the appeal of a smaller celebration remained. Today, more couples are choosing to exchange vows in breathtaking locations with only their closest family and friends—or in some cases, just the two of them.

Many wedding vendors now specialise in elopements, offering curated packages that include everything from celebrants to florals, ensuring a stress-free experience.

One of these vendors is the latest wedding sensation in Cairns – Hitcher's Love Shack – which is located in the iconic little white and pink building on James Street.

Co-owners Stephanie Milne (a local celebrant) and Katie Purling (a photographer) saw a gap in the market in our region, with the only places for elopement and micro weddings being outdoors or in the courthouse.

"(Elopements and micro weddings) are definitely something that is on the upturn and is definitely growing," Stephane said.

"We found that the only places in Cairns to elope were at the courthouse or outdoors – and with the ever-changing Cairns weather, it just wasn't fitting the market."

While some couples scale back their weddings purely for financial reasons, many are reinvesting their budget into high-quality experiences. Instead of splurging on a sit-down dinner for 200 guests, couples are booking luxury getaways, personalised wedding photography, and intimate receptions with gourmet dining for their nearest and dearest.

"People just don't want to start their lives together on a debt and a lot of people don't want to feel like they have to invite everyone, so that is what makes this so much more special," Stephane said.

Since opening, Hitcher's has opened its doors to many wedding vendors, and Katie said she and Stephane are proud to watch its growth already.

"Every person who has come in has been blown away with our space and by how big it is, and they have all said it is a lot more than they initially thought," Katie said.

"Come in, have a look, see if it's your vibe – it's better than the courthouse!"

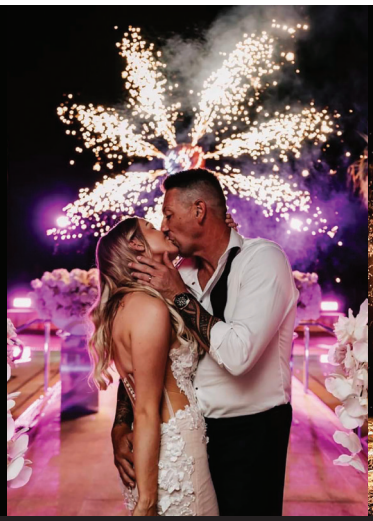
As wedding trends continue to evolve, it's clear that the allure of an intimate celebration isn't just a passing phase. For couples seeking a stress-free, meaningful, and deeply personal way to say "I do," small weddings and elopements are proving that sometimes, less truly is more.


Xplosive Art

Gentle ground effects rise into
*a romantic visual display...*
The firing intensity increases and includes aerial effects bursting into
*a Kaleidoscope of colours, painting the night sky.*

YOUR GUESTS WILL BE TALKING ABOUT YOUR WEDDING FOR MANY YEARS TO COME! THE PACE SLOWS AND INTENSIFIES AT VARIOUS STAGES DURING THE DISPLAY TO ADD VARIETY AND FIT IN WITH THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FIREWORKS BEING FIRED.

BOOK US FOR YOUR WEDDING TODAY
0418847258 / 0410427844
ADMIN@XPLOSIVEART.COM.AU



A TRULY *memorable* MOMENT!

SHANGRI-LA
THE MARINA
CAIRNS
Your happily ever
after begins here
Book a minimum of 50 guests and receive:
-Complimentary dancefloor & 30 minute canapés
-1 night stay in a One Bedroom Suite
-Dedicated wedding planner
events.slmc@shangri-la.com | 40527729

TOKUNAI
BRIDES
since 2008

lovenabridal.com.au

# LOVENA BRIDAL STUDIO

Where timeless elegance meets modern bridal couture. Nestled in the heart of Cairns, **LOVENA BRIDAL STUDIO** offers an exquisite collection of designer wedding gowns, carefully curated for brides who seek sophistication, style, and grace. With years of expertise in the bridal industry and a passion for couture, our team ensures every bride feels effortlessly beautiful from the moment she steps into our charming studio. Discover internationally acclaimed designers, from classic silhouettes to runway-inspired masterpieces—because your journey to "I do" begins with the perfect gown.

*Check us out on* ***Instagram & Facebook.***

*Book A Fitting:* ***info@lovenabridal.com.au*** *|* ***(07) 4242 8239***

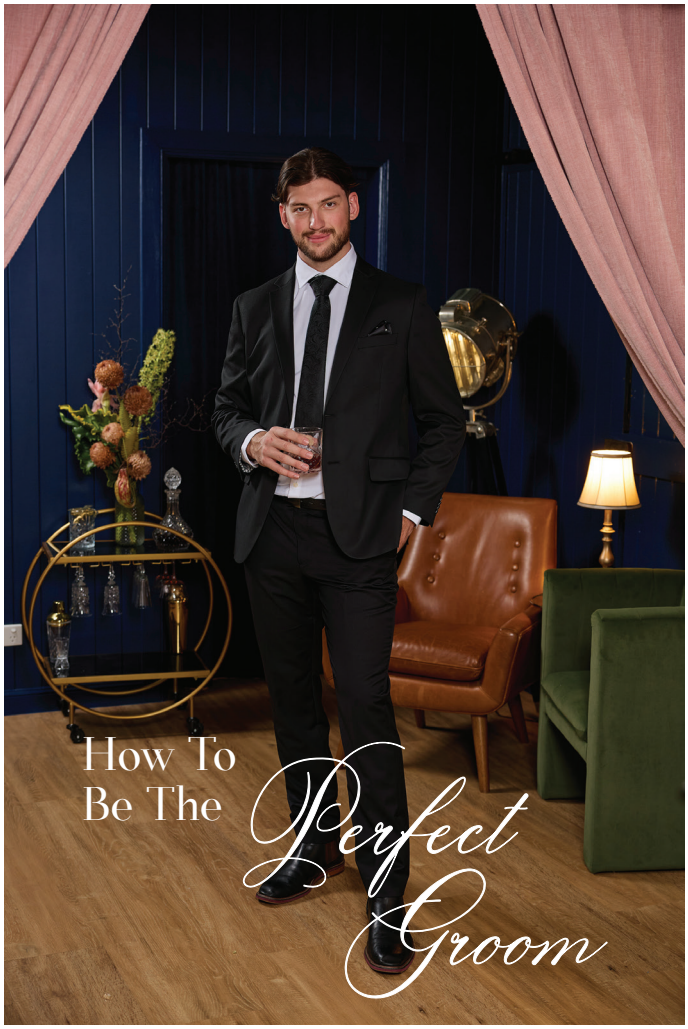
## Celebrate your honeymoon in style with Ivy the iconic luxury kombi Van!

- **Comfortable bed sleeps two!**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Outdoor set up**
- **Tea, coffee & games included!**

# RETRO RV
Cairns

*Book your romantic FNQ getaway via Camplify!*

**@retrorvcairns**



# How To Be The *Perfect Groom*

Planning a wedding isn't just the bride's responsibility. As a groom, you play a vital role in ensuring your big day is memorable and stress-free.

While wedding preparations can seem overwhelming, getting organised early will make the process much smoother. Here's how you can prepare for your wedding day like a pro.

**1. Take an Active Role in Planning**
While some grooms prefer to let their partner take the lead, being involved shows your commitment and helps ease the workload. Participate in decisions about the venue, catering, music, and guest list. Not only will this make the day more personal to you, but it will also strengthen your bond as a couple.

**2. Sort Out Your Attire**
Your wedding outfit should be planned well in advance. Whether you're going for a classic tuxedo, a tailored suit, or a more relaxed look, ensure it fits perfectly. Schedule fittings ahead of time and consider your groomsmen's attire to create a cohesive look. Don't forget accessories like cufflinks, shoes, and a stylish watch to complete the ensemble.

**3. Plan Your Grooming Routine**
Looking your best on the big day requires preparation. Schedule a haircut a week before the wedding and consider a professional shave or beard trim. If you have a skincare routine, stick to it to avoid last-minute breakouts. A good night's sleep before the wedding will also ensure you look fresh and well-rested.

**4. Write Your Vows**
If you're writing your own vows, don't leave them to the last minute. Take the time to express your feelings sincerely. Practise reading them out loud so you feel confident when delivering them in front of your guests.

**5. Take Care of Logistics**
Confirm details with vendors, coordinate transportation, and ensure your groomsmen know their roles. Having a checklist or delegating tasks to a best man can help avoid any hiccups.

**6. Enjoy the Moment**
Finally, remember to relax and soak in the experience. Weddings are about celebrating love, so don't stress over minor mishaps. Stay present, enjoy your partner's company, and embrace the joy of the day.


BLOOMING KEEPSAKES

#1 AWARD WINNING FLOWER PRESERVATION STUDIO

BLOOMING KEEPSAKES CRAFTSMANSHIP GUARANTEE | AUTHENTIC FLOWER PRESERVATION | HIGH QUALITY WORKMANSHIP | AHCG APPROVED

BOUQUETS
WEDDINGS
VOUCHERS
FUNERALS
GIFTS

BK YOUR FLOWERS; *in bloom for a lifetime*

0421 162 783 | CAIRNS | AUSTRALIA | WWW.BLOOMINGKEEPSAKES.COM.AU

# A PICTURE-PERFECT SETTING FOR YOUR PERFECT DAY

Say "I do" with the breathtaking backdrop of Trinity Inlet and lush tropical mountains, where every moment becomes a cherished memory.

At the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, a five-star boutique hotel in the heart of Cairns, we offer stunning ceremony and reception venues just minutes from your luxurious bridal suite. With 128 elegantly appointed rooms, including premium deluxe water view rooms and the opulent executive and Presidential suites, your wedding experience will be nothing short of exceptional.

Exchange vows on our picturesque pool deck, framed by serene waterways and majestic mountains. From the first look to the final dance, capture every magical moment against a backdrop of natural beauty.

Indulge in a curated wedding banquet, tailored to delight the senses with elegance and style.

Our dedicated Wedding Coordinators will assist you in all the details, from floral arrangements to entertainment, ensuring a seamless and stress-free celebration.

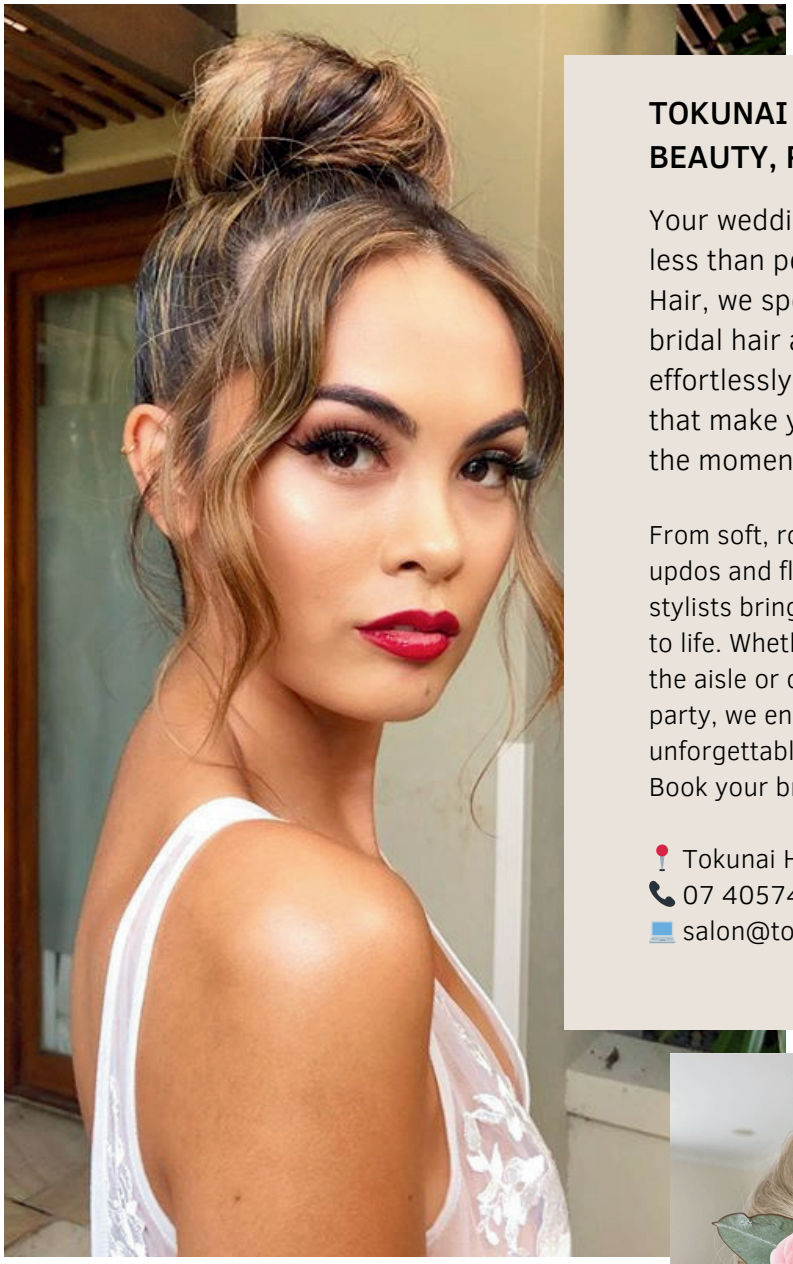
Let us turn your love story into an unforgettable collection of moments to treasure forever.

PULLMAN REEF HOTEL CASINO
35-41 Wharf Street, Cairns Qld 4870
E: weddings@reefcasino.com.au
P: (07) 4030 8798

pullman
HOTELS AND RESORTS

REEF HOTEL CASINO

# TOKUNAI BRIDES



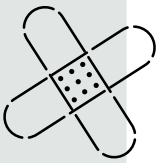
## TOKUNAI HAIR – BRIDAL BEAUTY, REDEFINED

Your wedding day deserves nothing less than perfection. At Tokunai Hair, we specialise in luxurious bridal hair and makeup, creating effortlessly elegant, timeless looks that make you feel as beautiful as the moment itself.

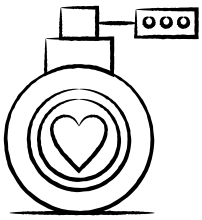
From soft, romantic waves to intricate updos and flawless makeup, our expert stylists bring your dream bridal vision to life. Whether you're walking down the aisle or celebrating with your bridal party, we ensure a stress-free, unforgettable experience.
Book your bridal consultation today!

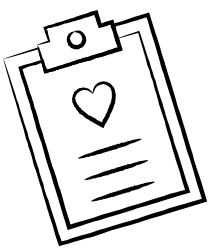
📍 Tokunai Hair | Westcourt, Cairns
📞 07 40574690
💻 salon@tokunaihair.com

# *Wedding Day* EMERGENCY KIT



- Allergy Medication
- Baby Powder
- Band-Aids
- Bobby Pins
- Breath Mints
- Bug Spray
- Cash
- Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Earring Backs
- Fashion Tape
- Hair Spray
- Hair Ties
- Hairbrush & Comb
- Hand Lotion
- Hand Sanitiser
- Lint Roller
- Lip Balm
- Lipstick
- Mini Sewing Kit
- Mirror
- Pain Relief
- Perfume
- Portable
- Phone Charger
- Powder
- Safety Pins
- Snacks
- Stain Remover
- Sunscreen
- Tissues
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste





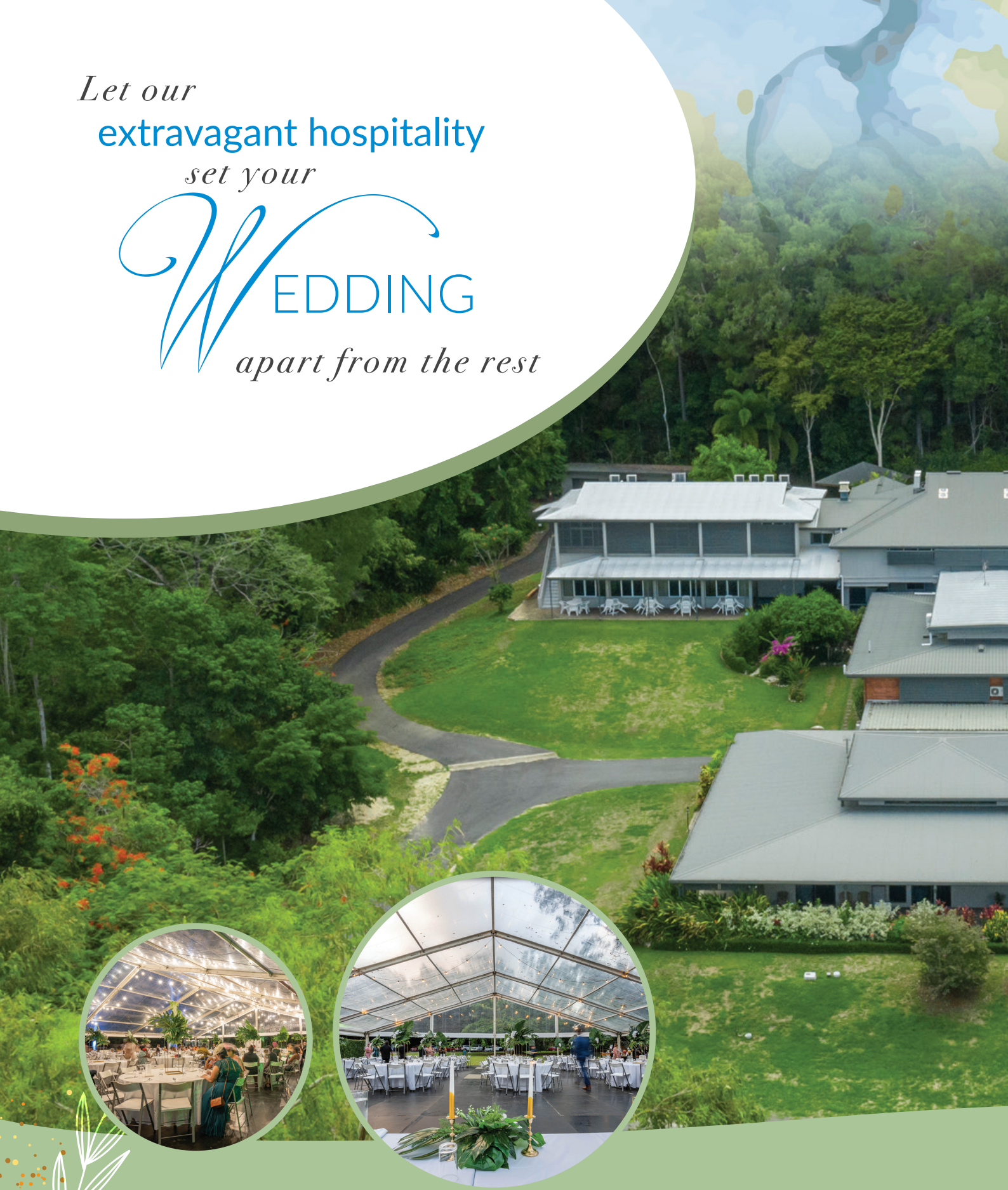
*Let our*

extravagant hospitality

*set your*

# WEDDING

*apart from the rest*








07 4047 8100

seville@mcauleyministries.org.au

35 Bauhinia Ave Earlville 4870 QLD

# SEVILLE
## MERCY CENTRE

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CERTIFIED

www.seville.org.au

Find us on Easy Weddings - easyweddings.com.au/WeddingVenues/Cairns/SevilleMercyConferenceCentre/

## EVENT STYLING

**Claire Victoria Wedding Design** *clairevictoriaweddingdesign.com.au*

**Eventcore** *eventcore.com.au*

**Port Douglas Weddings and Hire** *www.myweddinginportdouglas.com*

**Stella By Design** *www.stellabydesign.com.au*

**Northhampton Events** *northampton.net.au*

**Two Tribes** *www.twotribes.com.au*

## MOBILE BAR

**The Bedford Bar** *thebedfordbar.com.au*

**Douglas Vintage Van Co.** *www.portdouglasvintagevanco.com.au*

**Lu's Crew** *crewbeveragecatering.com.au*

**Kombi Keg** *kombikeg.com*

## FLORISTS

**Stella Florist** *stellaflorist.com.au*

**I Do Flowers** *www.idoflowerscairns.com.au*

**The Posy Crew** *www.theposycrew.com.au*

**Florist Gardens** *floristgardens.com.au*

**Ivy Florist** *www.ivyflorist.net*

THE CityLife® MAGAZINE

*Wedding Edit*

## HAIR & MAKEUP

**Cairns Bridal Hair and Makeup** *www.cairnsbridalhair.com.au*

**Tokunai Hair** *www.tokunaihair.com*

**Rachael Gregory** *rachaelgregory.com*

**Rikkea Wainohu Makeup** *www.rikkeamakeup.com.au*

**leMYNK** *lemynk.com*

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**The Raw Photographer** *www.therawphotographer.com*

**Peppermint Lane Photo and Film** *www.peppermintlane.com.au*

**Perspective Photography** *www.perspectivesphoto.com.au*

**Matthew Evans** *www.matthewevansphotography.com.au*

**Every Moment Photography** *info@everymomentphotography.com.au*

**Frontrow foto** *www.frontrowfoto.com.au*

**Lovegreen Photography** *www.lovegreenphotography.com*

## CELEBRANTS

**Sarah Woods** *www.idoceremony.com.au*

**Darlene Woodward** *eventcelebrant.com.au*

**Anna Soltwedel** *thelovechronicles.com.au*

**Stephanie Milne** *stephaniemilne.com.au*

## VENUES

**Seville Mercy Centre** *www.seville.org.au*

**Rex Smeal Park** *douglas.qld.gov.au*

**The Rainforest Grotto** *www.rainforestgrottoportdouglas.com*

**The Sugar Wharf** *www.sugarwharfweddings.com.au*

**Bali Hai** *balihairesort.com*

**Cairns Secret Garden** *www.cairnssecretgarden.au*

**Laloli** *www.laloli.com.au*

**Pullman Palm Cove Sea Temple Resort & Spa** *www.pullmanpalmcove.com.au/weddings*

**Alamanda Great Barrier Reef Chapel** *spb.com.au*

**Nu Nu Restaurant** *nunu.com.au*

**Shangri La Resort** *events.smlc@shangri-la.com*

**Pullman Reef Hotel Casino** *weddings@reefcasino.com.au*

**Hitcher's Love Shack** *hitchers.com.au*

## WEDDING CAKES

**Cairns Wedding Cakes** *www.cairnsweddingcakes.com.au*

**The Hungry Hummingbird** *www.thehungryhummingbird.com.au*

**Passion for Cakes** *www.passionforcakes.com.au*

**LoveLeigh's Cakery** *www.loveleighscakery.com*

**Duke's Doughnuts** *www.dukesdoughnuts.com*

## CATERING

**Coral Coast Catering** *www.coralcoastcatering.com.au*

**Ochre** *ochrerestaurant.com.au*

**Chriso the Personal Chef** *chriso.com.au*

**Cairns Spit Roast** *www.cairnsspitroast.com.au*

**C'est Bon** *www.cestboncairns.com.au*

## VIDEOGRAPHY

**Threadless Films** *www.threadlessfilms.com.au*

**JADÈ Films** *www.jadefilms.com.au*

**Hudson Films** *www.hudsonfilms.com.au*

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Connor Reid** *www.connorreid.com.au*

**Tony George** *www.tonygeorgeentertainment.com.au*

**Electric Dreams** *www.electricdreamsentertainment.com.au*

**Anais Campbell** *anaisofficial.net*

**Andrea** *andreaallumay.com*

# MYER one

Be rewarded.
$1 = 2
Earn 2 Credits per $1 spent in-store or online at Myer
1,000 = $10
1,000 Credits earns you a $10 Reward
Plus, unlock these benefits and more.
Birthday Reward
Early Sales Access
Exclusive Sales and Offers
Join today, it's easy with the MYER one App

ELA

Drink + Meze

# FUNCTIONS

Host your special occasion, celebration or corporate event with us! Seating up to **140 guests**, with flexible spaces for smaller gatherings. Our dedicated team takes care of the details—so you can relax and enjoy the moment.

Book your event today!

www.elacairns.com.au

(07) 4041 0718

Shop 8/1 Marlin Parade, Cairns City QLD 4870

YAYA'S
HELLENIC KITCHEN & BAR

*Need space for a*
*FUNCTION*
*or PARTY?*
*Call us to book*

TRADITIONAL GREEK CUISINE ON THE ESPLANADE OVERLOOKING THE CORAL SEA

For bookings or enquiries please phone : 4031 3033

**LEVEL 1 CORNER APLIN ST & ESPLANADE CAIRNS (ABOVE VILLA ROMANA)**
**DINNER EVERY NIGHT FROM 5PM**

Villa Romana
TRATTORIA
EST 1999

Family owned since 1999

VILLA ROMANA - FOR A SLICE OF ITALY ON THE ESPLANADE

**Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner Open from 6:30am daily**

**PHONE** 4051 9000 Cnr Esplanade & Aplin Street, Cairns **FOLLOW US:** villaromana_cairns villa romana cairns

# Oishi Oishi

JAPANESE FLUFFY PANCAKES

Cairns CBD

FLUFFY PANCAKES & MORE

**Mon - Fri 8am - 8pm**
**Sat - Sun 7am - 8pm**

---

Shields Street, Cairns

# OPEN NOW!

moyamoya AUSTRALIA

# Smokey Blue Rally

TRIPLE 99.5 CAIRNS

CityLife MAGAZINE

**Crack clues, claim treasure, and conquer Cairns—all while raising funds and awareness! Keep the loot, enjoy the adventure, and celebrate at the ultimate after-party!**

## SATURDAY 3RD MAY 2025

- Rally Check in from 9am at Cazaly's Cairns.
- First clue released promptly at 10am.
- Your team must be over the finish line by 4pm.
- Presentation of Awards and After Party from 6.00pm

AFTER PARTY AT **BROTHERS LEAGUES CLUB**

**WHY:** Fundraising for Moyamoya Australia, a registered charity funding research, and supporting Moyamoya patients and their families.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Dress up in BLUE, decorate your car in blue ~ get creative. You just might be in the run for the best dressed award.

**WHAT TO BRING:** A GREAT BIG SMILE of course! A sense of fun and adventure will also help!

**HOW IT WORKS:** Participants will answer clues to find treasure hidden (you keep the loot) at various locations across Cairns, raising funds, raising awareness and making way to the finish line for the after party and awards.

**HOW TO FUNDRAISE:** Once you have registered your team, you can create a fundraising page here to start your fundraising prior to the event. You will also be supplied with Moyamoya Australia rattle moneyboxes to collect as you go. Will your team be our winner of the Highest Fundraiser Award for 2025?

COST: **$55 PER VEHICLE**

**INCLUDES:**
- Moyamoya Australia Goody Bag.
- Treasure at each location.
- Entry to Awards Presentation and Live Music by Carinda Christie Band.
- Please note food and drinks will be available for purchase at the cash bar.

**Register your team now:**
https://moyamoyaaustralia.org.au/smokey-blue/

## WHOLELIFE PHARMACY & HEALTHFOODS

# Meet Intoleran: Your Partner In Managing Food Intolerances

VINCE PAPPALARDO

: wholelife.com.au

**Co-Founder and Pharmacist**

Navigating food intolerances can be challenging, but with innovative brands like Intoleran, managing these everyday hurdles has become a lot simpler. In this blog, we explore the story behind Intoleran with Photios Poupoulas, Managing Director of Intoleran (Australia). Discover how this unique brand is transforming lives by supporting Australians dealing with food intolerances.

### The Intoleran Journey: From The Netherlands To Australia

Intoleran's story began in 2008 in The Netherlands, under its original name, Disolut. Founded by Remko Hiemstra, a nurse who personally experienced the frustrations of lactose intolerance, the brand started with a clear purpose: to create practical solutions for managing food intolerances.

What began with a focus on lactose intolerance soon evolved into a broader mission, expanding Intoleran's product range to address various food intolerances, including less common ones. Under the leadership of International Director Harmen Treep, Intoleran has grown its presence across Europe, the UK, and the United States.

In 2020, pharmacist Photios Poupoulas introduced Intoleran to Australia, recognising a gap in effective options for Australians managing food intolerances. His commitment to delivering innovative solutions has made Intoleran a trusted name in many Australian households.

### Where To Start: Choosing The Right Intoleran Product

If you're just starting your journey with Intoleran, the best first step is to consult a healthcare professional, such as a doctor or dietitian, to identify your food intolerances. Once you have clarity, Intoleran's Trial Packs are an excellent way to find the product that suits you best.

A standout option is Quatrase 10,000, which is particularly helpful for individuals with multiple intolerances or IBS. It's designed to support digestion and improve comfort when dealing with various triggers.

### Highlights Of Their Journey

One of Intoleran's proudest achievements is introducing DAO Mini and DAO Plus into Australia in early 2023. These products offer a unique enzyme solution for histamine intolerance, a lesser-known but impactful condition.

Additionally, achieving Monash University FODMAP Certification was a significant milestone. This certification reassures customers that our products are rigorously tested for ingredient accuracy and purity, making them suitable for those following a low-FODMAP diet.

intoleran
digestive experts

### Where To Find Intoleran Products

WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods is proud to partner with Intoleran to make these life-changing products accessible to Australians. As experts in health and wellness, WholeLife shares Intoleran's passion for supporting those managing food intolerances. Visit your nearest WholeLife store to explore the range or shop conveniently online.

### Professional Support For Your Intolerance Journey

Intoleran isn't just about providing products — it's about delivering comprehensive support. Their headquarters team includes qualified dietitians available to answer your questions and offer expert advice, ensuring your path to managing intolerances is as informed and seamless as possible.

### Learn More

Ready to take control of your food intolerances? Explore Intoleran's range at WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods. Together, let's make living with food intolerances easier and more manageable.

CAIRNS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Kicking Off the Year with Connection and Growth

PATRICIA O'NEILL
: (07) 4031 1838
: info@cairnschamber.com.au

**Chief Executive Officer**
**Cairns Chamber of Commerce**

Our year began on a high note with Coffee and Conversations at Triple M, where our business community connected over their morning cuppa. The energy carried over to our speed networking event at Brothers Leagues Club, which welcomed a diverse mix of businesses and created valuable new connections in a fun, fast-paced setting.

Recent flooding and road closures have reinforced the importance of shopping locally. With tourism slowing during extreme weather, our cafes and restaurants needed community support more than ever to keep their doors open and staff employed. These events have once again raised critical discussions in relation to our vulnerable supply chain disruption and the urgent need for flood-proofing arterial roads. The Cairns Chamber of Commerce continues to advocate to ensure government decision-makers hear the needs of our region.

In a significant win for the community, the Federal Government has pledged a further $87.5million for the Cairns Water Security Project. This vital infrastructure will support our growing population and enhance disaster resilience, with stage one set for completion by mid-2026. The Chamber, alongside key partners Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns, and Tourism Tropical North Queensland, worked tirelessly to secure funding commitments from both state and federal governments. These efforts have also resulted in cost-of-living relief, saving Cairns ratepayers an estimated $400 annually for the next 15 years. Although this financial commitment from the current Federal Government is in the budget, we need to ensure this commitment is upheld by all major parties given that we have a federal election looming. We will continue advocating for bi-partisan support however as this article goes to print who knows what might happen as election commitments are being announced at a rate of knots!

We recently reached out to the business community for feedback and real examples of the challenges faced when dealing with all three levels of government, otherwise known as frustrating "Red Tape". While we have received some insightful responses, we encourage more businesses to share their experiences. If bureaucracy is holding you back, let us know how we can help. Email: ceo@cairnschamber.com.au

Beyond advocacy, The Cairns Chamber of Commerce offers a range of networking events, informative luncheons, and practical workshops designed to support business owners. One recent seminar, Closing the Last Loophole – Wage Theft and Compliance, tackled the complexities of the new national wage theft scheme which came into effect on 1 January 2025. Joanna Minchinton from IRiQ Law provided expert guidance on the national wage theft scheme and its implications; what defines intentional underpayment; civil penalties and criminal prosecutions for non-compliance, the role of the Fair Work Ombudsman and practical steps to remain compliant as an employer.

Emerging Leaders and Industry Growth Our 2025 Emerging Leaders Program is again uncovering exceptional talent in our community. The first industry immersion day is just around the corner, where mentees will be matched with experienced mentors. This program is designed to build future leaders, expand professional networks, and provide a deeper understanding of the industries shaping Cairns' future.

Our February Business Luncheon focused on Health care and social assistance sector – our region's largest and fastest growing industry. We were joined by Hansen Yuncken, one of Australia's largest commercial building contractors. With a strong presence in FNQ for over 15 years, Hansen Yuncken has delivered key infrastructure projects that support regional growth.

Guest speakers included Scott Butler, Senior Project Manager, Hansen Yuncken, Leena Singh, Chief Executive, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Professor Andy Stewart, Dean of Health, Medical & Applied Sciences, CQUniversity Australia and Professor Sarah Larkins, Dean of Medicine and Dentistry, JCU and Adjunct Associate Professor Nick Loukas, Managing Director, Vitality Pharmacy. Speakers shared insights into major infrastructure investments, job creation, procurement opportunities, and career pathways within the healthcare sector.

The Cairns Regional Jobs Committee will stage the 2025 Cairns #GoHealth Careers Expo on 26 March at the Cairns Convention Centre—an excellent opportunity for students, job seekers, and career changers to explore health industry careers. Register free to attend and find your passion. 2025 Cairns #GoHealth Careers Expo

As we continue through 2025, the Chamber remains committed to advocating for businesses, fostering connections, and providing valuable opportunities for growth in our beautiful city. We encourage local businesses to engage with us, attend events, and take full advantage of the resources available to support their businesses to succeed.

**For more information on upcoming events, advocacy initiatives, membership, sponsorship or to share your business challenges, reach out to the Cairns Chamber of Commerce–we're here to help. www.cairnschamber.com.au**

# Life-changing outcomes for our community – powered by you.

Imagine a day where no one in Far North Queensland has to travel far for surgery. With your help, we can bring a state-of-the-art surgical robot to our region, offering advanced care right here at home.

This technology means faster recovery, less pain, and more precise surgeries for the people we care about.

**Help us transform health care for FNQ.**

**Donate today. Scan the QR code or call 07 4226 6327.**

## Let's make world-class care a reality today.

far north queensland hospital foundation

BDO
AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

ARROW EXPERIENCE

far north queensland hospital foundation

# SATURDAY MAY 31, 2025

NOT JUST A WALK IN THE PARK

## HIKE THE ARROW TRAILS & HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE DONATE FOR DANI CAMPAIGN.

## REGISTER OR DONATE NOW!

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

Partnered with...

GREAT BARRIER REEF MASTERS GAMES
29 MAY-1 JUNE 2025
Cairns Australia

...to bring you: Competitive Trail Running

Visit www.arrowexperience.org.au to register for the walk

For trail running visit the GBRMG visit: www.gbrmg.com.au/sports/trail-running

BDO
AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

coralexpeditions
AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE

fgf

Audi Centre Cairns

AVIS

TODAY'S BEST MUSIC STAR 102.7

**CAIRNS YOUNG CHAMBER**

# Cairns Young Chamber: Energising Community Connections in 2025

ROSIE MITCHENER
: (07) 4031 1838
: yc@cairnschamber.com.au

**Chair, Cairns Young Chamber**

As we swing into another vibrant year at the Cairns Young Chamber, our commitment to fostering deep community connections and nurturing young talent continues to grow. Here's a glimpse of our lively start to 2025 and the promising initiatives ahead.

## Deepening community ties

### *Cairns South Together*

We were thrilled to partner with Cairns South Together, part of Mission Australia, to mentor aspiring young marketeers. During a colourful market day, two dedicated committee members not only shared their insights at a pre-event briefing but also rolled up their sleeves to help out at the stall. This initiative is a brilliant reflection of our mission to support and elevate emerging business talent.

### *JCU Networking Nite*

This year's JCU Networking Nite was a fantastic opportunity for new students to immerse themselves in the academic community, connecting with

support services, peers, and valued partners like us. It's always inspiring to see new connections form, destined to strengthen our future.

## Engaging with the CYC community

### *Speed Networking Night*

Our first major event of 2025, the Speed Networking Night at Pachamama on 27 February, was a resounding success. This vibrant gathering welcomed numerous new faces, setting an energetic tone for the year. It's events like these that underscore the dynamic spirit and potential of our community.

In conjunction with Carey Group, we celebrated the 'Women's Guide to Financial Independence' at the International Women's Day event this past March—a free session that empowered many women with essential financial insights.

### *Sponsor spotlight*

We're immensely grateful for the continued support from CBC Staff Selection, returning as our Diamond Sponsor, and excited to welcome Carey Group as a new Platinum Sponsor. Their commitment is pivotal to our initiatives, and we extend a heartfelt thanks to each. A special acknowledgement goes to CityLife Magazine, our steadfast media partner, for their ongoing collaboration.

As we continue to shape a promising future, the support from our sponsors and partners is more crucial than ever. Thank you for believing in our vision and investing in the potential of young professionals across Cairns. Together, we're not just growing; we're thriving.

Until next time,

**Rosie Mitchener Chair,**
**Cairns Young Chamber**

**CAIRNS DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**

# Supporting Learner Drivers in Queensland

SERGEANT CARY COOLICAN

**Cairns Police Crime Prevention Co-ordinator**

If you are the parent of a 15-year-old, there is a strong likelihood they are desperate to get their licence once they turn 16. They can work through and complete the PrepL online from the age of 15-years and 11months.

As a parent, you can now enrol in the PrepL Supervisor Course enrol in the enrol in the PrepL Supervisor Course.

This course is designed to assist supervisors to teach learner drivers to drive safely. Enrolling in this course will assist to refresh your knowledge of the Queensland Road Rules.

The PrepL Supervisor Course shares the road rules and safe driving behaviour learning modules from the learner driver PrepL course, so you and your learner driver can have a rewarding experience together during the 100 hours of supervised driving.

A word of warning to parents, teaching your child how to drive in not as easy as it looks. It can be stressful for both you and your child. If you opt to teach them yourself, ensure you both remain calm, and your child is comfortable with the basics before venturing out on the highway or in busy peak our traffic.

Parents often have busy schedules and may not have the time to provide comprehensive driving instructions, which may result in rushed lessons that do not cover off on safety aspects. Driving rules and technology changes over time, and parents may not be up to date with correct driving practices, rules, and vehicle technology.

Sometimes parents do not have the best methods of teaching driving skills, may not have the best formula for explaining the concepts, or it may just be your learner does not acknowledge your driving experience and knowledge is ample. Not all parents are bad drivers, but it does not mean they are good instructors, so lessons with an accredited driving school are highly recommended. A good instructor can build on your learner's skill set, correct errant behaviour, and teach them simple strategies to remain vigilant on the road, navigate tricky parking manoeuvres and safe driving practices.

For those children without access to driving parents and mentors, your local Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) may run a PCYC Braking the Cycle volunteer driver mentor program. The program is designed to support learner drivers without access to a supervisor or registered vehicle to complete their logbook hours.

Participants are matched with a volunteer from their experienced driver mentor network and the mentor will encouragement and help the young person improve their skills and develop positive road safety attitude.

**For more information: https://www.pcyc.org.au/youth-and-community/personal-and-leadership-development/braking-the-cycle/**

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

# Regional Investment Priorities

SONJA JOHNSON
: (07) 4041 1729
: info@rdatropicalnorth.org.au

**Chief Executive Officer**
**Regional Development Australia**
**Tropical North (RDA)**

It has been a busy start to 2025 with Federal budget submissions due and renewed engagement between the State Government and the Regional Development Australia (RDA) network.

RDA Tropical North is one of six RDAs outside the southeast corner pulling together ideas to supercharge rural and regional development in collaboration with State Government departments following a workshop with the new Regional and Rural Development Minister Dale Last and his Director-General.

We have also worked with the Northern RDA Alliance on a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Food, Water and Energy Security for northern Australia outlining recommendations in these key areas for Northern Australia.

These include scaling up renewable energy programs to reduce reliance on diesel and increase regional resilience, and investing in transmission infrastructure to improve grid connectivity across regional and remote areas.

Establishing regional food hubs would improve food storage and distribution in remote communities while reinstating a national merchant fleet for domestic coastal shipping would reduce freight costs for food and agricultural products.

Infrastructure investment for water security, including feasibility assessment of critical water projects aligned with arable land availability, such as the Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme, should be prioritised.

Our economic and policy recommendations include that governments consider implementing special economic zones for remote Indigenous communities to catalyse economic activity.

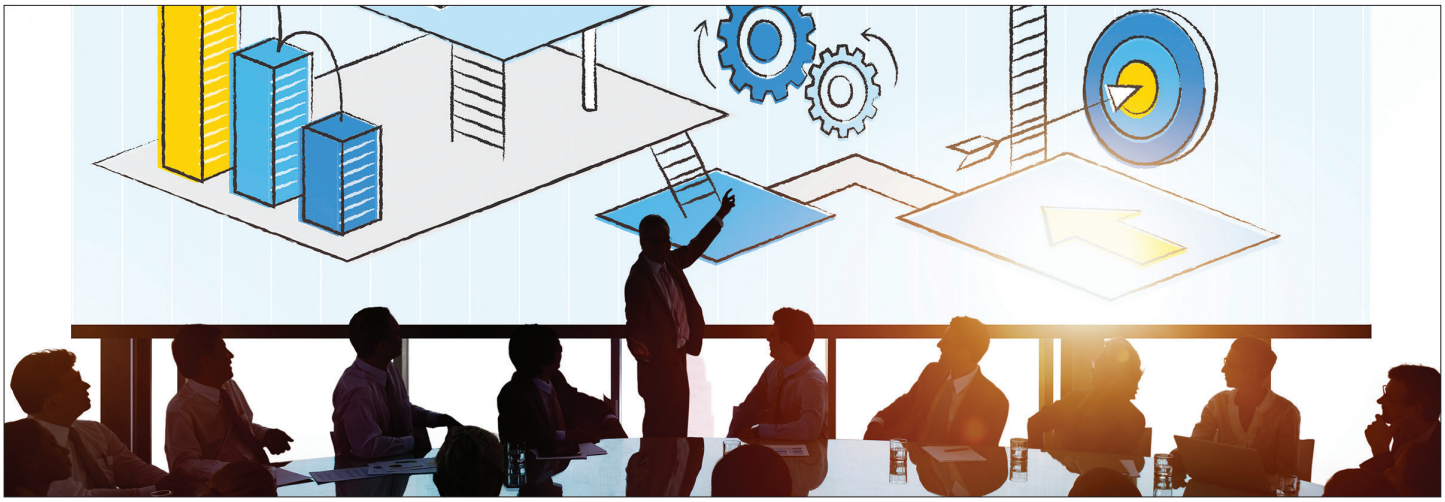
We also worked with the Northern RDA Alliance to seek support for each RDA region to develop workforce planning over the next five years, address coordination and fragmentation challenges, and undertake impactful workforce projects.

The eight investment priorities identified in the Tropical North Queensland Economic Development Strategy 2024-2029 were the focus of our submission for the 2025-26 Federal Government budget. These are:

- $36.2 million to seal and widen the Savannah Way between Mount Surprise and Croydon and $60-80 million to upgrade the Gilbert River Bridge.
- $240 million for Stage 3 of the Cape York Regional package to seal the next stage of the remaining 164km of the Peninsula Developmental Road.
- Extend the National Land Transport Network which ends at Smithfield to Mareeba and then to the Port of Weipa via the Peninsula Developmental Road.
- $1.5 million for a business case into the Cairns Aviation Precinct.
- A $12 million investment in the Cairns Marine Precinct.
- Establish a Mobilisation Taskforce to develop a Far North Queensland Agricultural Masterplan that would boost Gross Regional Productivity by $500 million annually.
- $41 million over five years for infrastructure and marketing aligned with the Tropical North Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy.
- $750,000 per annum over two years to undertake a social services sector audit.

After an industrious start to the new year, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners and stakeholders to advocate for regional development priorities that enhance Tropical North Queensland as the gateway to Asia and the Pacific.

**Regional Development Australia Tropical North Inc is an independent organisation driven by community leaders to broker regional development solutions that will create jobs and grow the Far North Queensland economy.**



TTNQ

# Chinese Market Rebound

MARK OLSEN
: (07) 4015 1201
: ceo@ttnq.org.au

**Chief Executive Officer**
**Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ)**

The Tropical North Queensland tourism industry was delighted to usher in the Year of the Snake on January 28 as we welcomed positive visitor numbers from China for the Chinese New Year.

The return of Cathay Pacific Airlines to Cairns on 17 December for the holiday season encouraged the continued growth of visitation from mainland China as well as many Europeans using the flights to take escape winter for a break in the tropics.

Passenger numbers through the international terminal of Cairns Airport were up by around 2000 a week in the lead up to and during the celebrations. Many Chinese travelled on domestic flights after arriving in Brisbane with China Eastern and China Southern.

The Chinese Year of the Snake is heralded as a time of profound wisdom, transformation and subtle power that encourages introspection, renewal and the embrace of change.

Looking at the China market, which was our largest international market before the pandemic, we can see transformation already happening with the shift from large groups travelling in highly concentrated numbers to smaller independent groups.

This will increasingly bring us the travellers that are a good fit with a destination wanting to be a global leader in nature-based ecotourism. They tend to disperse more widely throughout the region and are eager to connect more closely with local people and cultures.

We are already seeing these smaller groups and independent travel groups who are confident travellers thanks to influences from Chinese social media platform Little Red Book and Chinese online travel agencies such as C-Trip.

TTNQ operates official Chinese social media platforms such as Little Red Book where we collaborate with consumers, media influencers and opinion leaders to raise further awareness about Tropical North Queensland directly with consumers in China.

Chinese New Year is one of the three peak seasons that shape travel behaviour from China with their summer holidays and Golden Week also popular times to travel.

However, off-season travel is emerging as a fashionable trend for 2025 presenting opportunities for our destination. Another opportunity is the rise in special interest travel as the market matures with consumers travelling according to their interests such as art or food.

TTNQ is aggressively pursuing the Chinese market and currently has 30 campaigns in-market both directly with trade partners and in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland to support direct flights from China to Brisbane with China Eastern and China Southern.

We hope to see these high-value travellers continue to arrive in Cairns as they seek a premium destination that delivers the opportunity to enjoy quality time with family and friends well into the Year of the Snake.

**ADVANCE CAIRNS**

# A Vision for the Future: Launching Roadmap 2035

JACINTA REDDAN
: (07) 4080 2900
: admin@advancecairns.com

**Chief Executive Officer**
**Advance Cairns**

The launch of **Roadmap 2035: A Framework to Strengthen Far North Queensland** earlier this month has been a watershed moment for Advance Cairns and I do hope you have had the opportunity to hear about this plan.

The launch of this ambitious framework marked the start of a decade-long focus on realising the ambitions of Far North Queensland. More than 150 business leaders and regional mayors including the Mayor of Cairns Amy Eden joined us for this milestone event.

This was a pivotal moment for the region as **Roadmap 2035** is more than just a plan; it is a strategic framework designed to drive economic growth, sustainability, and long-term prosperity for our region. Developed over two years with extensive input from members, stakeholders, regional communities and government, it outlines clear and measurable goals and objectives that set a clear pathway for our collective success.

At its core, the Roadmap is built around **five interconnected pillars** which define the key drivers of our regional economy:

**1. Our Place in the Region** – Strengthening our strategic position within Northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific.
**2. Diversification and Innovation** – Fostering new industries, emerging technologies, and expanding existing sectors.
**3. Liveability** – Ensuring our communities continue to be attractive, vibrant places to live and work.
**4. Sustainability** – Balancing economic development with environmental stewardship.
**5. Jobs and Skills** – Addressing workforce needs to meet the demands of a growing and changing economy.

## ROADMAP 2035: THE PILLARS

We were pleased to bring delegates at the launch a conversation with three business leaders from the mining, critical minerals and sustainable aviation fuel sector. Attendees heard how these businesses are leveraging our unique strengths to drive growth, foster new industries, and further diversify our economy.

While Advance Cairns has led the development of this Roadmap, its success hinges on collective action. This is not just our blueprint—it belongs to the business community, industry leaders, and government representatives who will implement its vision. We are grateful to all who gave so much of their time, input and expertise to engage in this process.

This framework acknowledges our vulnerabilities just as we play to our strengths, and supply chain and road connectivity challenges have been at the forefront of our discussions in the wake of the recent severe weather events.

Indeed, this was central to our recent **Federal Budget** submission in which we highlight the need to strengthen vital supply chain links to the south while addressing the isolation caused by inadequate road infrastructure to our west. We have long been advocating for investments into the Bruce Highway while also pushing for sealing of the final part of the Kennedy Development Road which provide a secure inland alternative route.

With our Roadmap 2035, our gaze is firmly fixed to the horizon. Now, we invite you to step up and play your part. Let's envisage the milestones that will be achieved over the coming decade and let's all look forward to celebrating a stronger, more prosperous Far North Queensland.

The time is now.

# BE SEEN

**DANAE JONES**

CONSULTING

360° MARKETING

danaejones.com.au

# BRONTE & LAKEY

## FOR BREAKFAST

ALSO ON LISTNR

HIT

WGC LAWYERS

# Testamentary Discretionary Trust Wills

TANNEIL TINKER
: (07) 4046 1111
: cairns@wgc.com.au

**Senior Associate**
**WGC Lawyers**

Over the past five years, I have noticed an increasing trend towards making Wills containing testamentary discretionary trusts ("TDT").

TDT Wills are one of the most powerful estate planning tools available and offer the following benefits:

- Save your family tax after you die.
- Protect your beneficiaries' inheritance from divorce and bankruptcy risks.
- Not administratively burdensome – any extra compliance is far outweighed by the tax savings.

## What is a TESTAMENTARY DISCRETIONARY TRUST?

A TDT is established by a person's Will and remains dormant until the Willmaker dies.

The discretionary nature of the trust is what makes the trust so powerful for asset protection. Because none of the beneficiaries own the trust assets and their only right is to be considered by the trustee, it is very difficult to argue that the assets of the trust belong to any one of the beneficiaries.

A trustee can also be one of the beneficiaries of the trust. If that is the case, then the trust assets will 'look and feel' more like that beneficiary's assets because they are in control and can choose themselves or their family members to benefit from the trust.

## THE KEY BENEFITS OF A TDT WILL

- Protects vulnerable beneficiaries.
- Income tax flexibility.
- Protects assets from beneficiary relationship breakdowns.
- Beneficiary bankruptcy protection.

### Tax benefits

TDTs offer fantastic tax flexibility. In fact, this is the only environment where you can get such great tax treatment. Each year the trustee can choose which of the beneficiaries should receive the income earned from investing the inheritance each year, which allows them to give income to beneficiaries who have lower tax rates. Testamentary trusts offer an additional benefit which is not available to any other trust – beneficiaries under 18 are treated like adults for tax purposes which means they can receive the same tax free threshold each year, currently about $22,000 (instead of merely $416 tax free per year).

### Relationship breakdown protection

It is an unfortunate fact of our time that, as parents, we need to plan for our children's future relationship breakdowns. Using a TDT as a vehicle for your children's inheritance means that their inheritance has the best possible chance of protection from being handed over to your children's future ex-spouses by the Family Courts.

### Bankruptcy protection

If your child's inheritance is under the protection of a TDT, and your child becomes bankrupt, then the TDT assets remain outside the scope of assets that the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy can seize to satisfy your child's creditors.

## THE WRAP UP

The purpose of writing this article is, in my view, everyone needs to know that TDTs exist as an option for your estate planning. You spend your whole life amassing the wealth that becomes your children's inheritance. A TDT Will is an incredible gift for your children, and the last opportunity you have to protect your children's financial wellbeing.

The only way a person can obtain these extremely attractive benefits unique to a TDT is if someone who loves them gifts them this trust and then dies.

A TDT Will is truly the 'Rolls-Royce' of estate planning.

Having said all of the above, you should not get your TDT Will done by just anyone. You need to see lawyers who understand and appreciate the intricacies of this type of estate planning.

At WGC Lawyers our estate planning team are up to date on all things TDT, and we can advise you on whether a TDT is appropriate for your unique circumstances. Our TDT Wills are comprehensive, user-friendly, and not unnecessarily complicated.

Please feel free to contact me at WGC Lawyers if you would like to know more about this product.

WGC Lawyers | QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED SPECIALIST

WILD SUGAR
Wild Heart Singlet +
Australis Midi Skirt
in Cassowary Forest
by Sajeela Jamie
be wild, wild child
www.wildsugar.fashion

La Dolce Vita Cardigan +
3/4 Sleeve Pretty Bird Top &
La Dolce Vita Long Shorts
in Autumn

be wild, wild child
www.wildsugar.fashion

THE POWER OF PR® WITH DANAE JONES

# Media Crisis & Your Media Policy

DANAE JONES
: danae@danaejones.com.au
: www.danaejones.com.au

**Danae Jones is Managing Director of PR & Marketing firm Danae Jones Consulting Pty Ltd**

It surprises me just how many companies do not have an active media policy or media crisis management plan in place.

A media policy should be one of the key components of any business and the time needs to be taken to have one properly drafted.

You might say, "But I only run a small business and we don't speak with the media"; or "We're a charity and we can't afford that kind of thing" and that's probably true, but you still need some form of policy in place to deal with the media if and when the time arises. What if you aren't in the office and the media turn up on your doorstep. How are your staff meant to respond? Or what if someone starts attacking your business or organisation on social media?

If you can't afford to have a professional consultant formulate a media policy for you, that doesn't mean you should throw it in the too hard-basket and forget about it.

A very basic media policy can be put together by you or one of your staff, but ensure that you include the following:

1. Nominate at least two company spokespeople

2. Put together a procedure for staff to follow if media enquiries are being fielded

3. Social media responses – who is skilled within your team to handle this? Nominate a person or a contractor to take on this role and manage your online reputation. Social media is often forgotten by people in a media crisis situation and if left unmanaged in a timely manner it can cause you no end of reputational damage.

4. If your business is a franchise or part of a national chain you also need to consider what you can and can't say to the media without approval.

There is a long list of situations and scenarios that need to be addressed in a comprehensive media policy, but if you are attempting to formulate one yourself, the top three points above at the very least need to be covered.

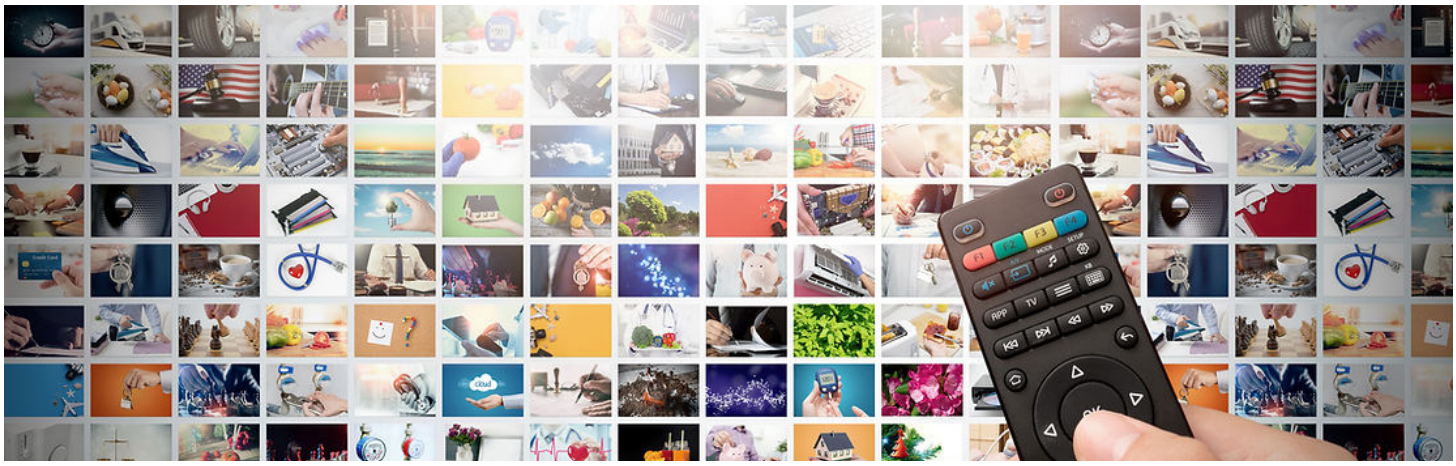
A media policy is also a very useful tool in the case of a crisis situation. Just think how much more at ease you will feel knowing that your staff are well informed and trained on how to deal with the media and should your staff receive any media enquiries during your absence, you can rest assured that they know the right process to follow to ensure the damage to your company profile is minimal and short lived.

Once a media policy is formulated, staff need to be trained in how to deal with the media, no matter what the situation – positive or negative. They should also be taken through the media policy step by step, so if the situation arises that the media do call your business or organisation, your staff will know what to say and do straight away.

I've seen it happen time and time again, where a company finds itself attracting media attention and the staff do not know how to deal with the media and are often frightened to talk to them for fear of saying the wrong thing. This lack of training could mean the difference between taking advantage of a positive publicity opportunity or mitigating damage in a negative one.

A public relations consultant can point you in the right direction when it comes to media policies and crisis management plans, but if you aren't about to give one a call anytime soon, at least do yourself a favour and have a brief plan in place for your staff to follow and people who are skilled on your emergency call list to step in and assist if required.

Trust me, it'll save you a lot of headaches in the long run!



# CIAF Comes Back To Its Roots

PHOTO: Gillyba wearing design by Lynelle Flindersat at Tanks, where CIAF will return to in 2025. Photo by Alicia Jade (Studio Sol).

*"As we look to the future, we honour the past and return to the Tanks where CIAF began."*

One of the region's biggest First Nation's festivals, the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), is set to return to its roots for 2025, when it takes place at the Tanks Arts Centre later this year.

From 10 to 13 July, CIAF will transform Edge Hill into a vibrant cultural hub, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, culture, and heritage across three dynamic days of events.

The festival will feature a diverse program of both free and ticketed events, showcasing more than 600 visual artists and 150 performers. The 2025 program includes visual and performing arts, masterclasses, cultural demonstrations, talks, awards, fashion, food, and more. Attendees can experience the Opening Night, Art Fair showcase, artist talks, guided tours, art awards, masterclasses, cultural demonstrations, and the Closing Ceremony.

CIAF CEO Dennis Stokes said returning to Tanks Arts Centre is a watershed moment in the event's evolution and is a coming of age.

"With our return to the Tanks Arts Centre, we are coming full circle – blending history and innovation. CIAF 2025 will be an unforgettable experience that allows people to fully immerse themselves in First Nations' arts, stories, and traditions. This invites locals and visitors alike to celebrate with us."

CIAF Chair Bianca Beetson echoed this sentiment, emphasising the significance of this move.

"CIAF has always been a platform for celebrating the depth and diversity of Queensland's First Nations' arts and cultures. As we look to the future, we honour the past and return to the Tanks where CIAF began.

"This move represents an exciting shift in direction for the organisation as we focus on providing a platform to sell, celebrate, and champion our First Nations artists from Queensland.

"The 2025 program will be dynamic, featuring bold new works, powerful storytelling, and deeper community engagement. "Please join us in showcasing our Indigenous artists' strength, resilience, and innovation at Cairns' significant arts and cultural destination event," said Ms Beetson.

This year's theme will be 'Pay Attention!', inspired by Tony Albert's 2011 print work of the same name. In the wake of the 2023 Voice Referendum, the theme serves as a call to remain vigilant about the challenges First Nations people continue to face.

This thought-provoking theme aims to bridge contemporary and traditional perspectives, sparking artistic responses that will capture the interest of collectors and curators across Australia and beyond.

Artists will use their creative voices to document, challenge, and inspire, ensuring that today's messages shape tomorrow's narratives.

Warren Pitt and his children Curtis & Dionne when they were little

**"IN OUR DAD, GREATNESS HAS BEEN SITTING NEXT TO US, HOLDING OUR HANDS AND GUIDING US OUR ENTIRE LIVES."**

Warren Pitt AM and his son Curtis Pitt in earlier years

# Remembering The Hon. Warren Pitt AM

Words by Danae Jones

An outpouring of sadness has followed the passing of the Honourable Warren Pitt AM, a long-standing and much-loved and respected politician who dedicated his life to representing the people. He was farewelled at a funeral service at the Cairns Convention Centre with Queenslanders from all walks of life and political backgrounds in attendance. Federal Members, Premiers, Mayors, former politicians and a raft of local community and sporting groups, family and friends paid tribute to the former Queensland Cabinet Minister, Member for Mulgrave, Teacher and Sporting Pioneer.

Warren Pitt was renowned for his ability to fight for what he believed in, and while a proud Labor party man, he would regularly cross the political divide through the strong friendships he forged and the respect he attracted. His approach was born from his willingness to serve his people and a good dose of old-school values that had nothing to do with politics, and everything to do with the man he was.

They say if you weren't taught, refereed on a footy field or umpired by Warren Pitt in a game of cricket you probably weren't from Far North Queensland.

"Dionne and I never had to look too far to find a hero, or to aspire to aim high. In our Dad, greatness has been sitting next to us, holding our hands and guiding us our entire lives," said his son Curtis Pitt at the service when reading out his father's eulogy.

After fighting the good fight his entire life, he laid down his gloves at 76 years of age, passing away peacefully in Gordonvale on 7th February 2025.

*He lived an extraordinary life, doing so much for others and creating a positive impact on this world.*

As the son of a policeman and one of four children, Warren Pitt's early years meant his family moved around regional Queensland a lot. He was an army reservist from 1965 to 1975 and was active in the local community with sport. He discovered the love of teaching and coaching sport very early in his adult life and later went on to achieve his Teaching Certificate, and a Bachelor of Arts degree, and a Bachelor of Educational Studies from the University of Queensland.

His son the Hon. Curtis Pitt, who followed in his father's political footsteps, representing the Queensland Parliament as both Speaker of the House and Treasurer, remembers his father as a hero.

"There are many reasons why Dad was our hero. But perhaps it was the decisions he made well before we were born that most defined him."

**A Defining Moment In Time**

Curtis Pitt who recently retired from his political life, chose to speak of what made his father who he was at the service and give people a very personal insight into the stark reality of how traumatic and adverse times can define a person.

"My Dad was named after his father Fred, but never went by that name.

There's no other way to say it but he despised his father – and not without good reason.

Domestic and family violence has been a part of our community for it seems time immemorial, most often hidden in the shadows and not spoken about.

As a police officer, his father held a position of authority in the community and that came with a level of respect publicly.

But behind closed doors he was a heavy drinker who would beat my Grandma on a regular basis. My Dad would do his best to try to stop him but he was unable to. He even put sugar in the car's petrol tank to try and prevent his father from going to the pub.

As time went on, his father would lock my Dad in the police cells next door so he didn't get in the way.

So my Dad took it upon himself to learn to fight – and well. He became a very accomplished Golden Gloves boxer, winning the Junior Welterweight Division title in 1966.

His motivation was simple – to be able to defend his Mum and knock his father out. After several confrontations it seemed that the message finally got through.

So often, children pattern the behaviours of their parents – taking on the best but also the worst of their traits.

Dad swore that when he finally had a family of his own one day, he would be nothing like his father.

By drawing a line in the sand and being a loving and gentle husband and father, he broke the cycle of violence.

Like I said, there are many reasons why Dad was my hero, but this decision and these actions are by far the biggest reason.

Only days before his passing we finally did what should've been done years ago. We had his name legally changed to just Warren Pitt, and I thank the Attorney-General and the Registrar General for their assistance with this.

It may seem symbolic, but it was very meaningful to Dad to know he would leave this world under his own name, and when I told him the news, it was the happiest I'd seen him in so long."

It was a confronting piece of history to hear for many attendees at the funeral, a topic people often choose not to address so publicly, but a very common societal problem that deserves to be spoken about. Warren's family felt it was important that the depths of his story were shared upon his passing, to remind people that the cycle of domestic and family violence can be broken and that everyone has a choice in life. The choices we make about our individual behaviours need not be a product of those who have harmed us, but rather a catalyst for change. In Warren Pitt's case he chose to use his experience to shape him through a lifetime of service for the community, for fighting for the underdog, for achieving great things for his community through serving in state politics and being the most devoted husband and father he could possibly be.

Besides being a champion boxer, Warren was great at most sports including rugby league and cricket. He was also talented at athletics, cross country, sprinting, discuss and other field events.

All the family knew that undeniably, the highlight of Warren's life was meeting his wife Linda and eventually marrying her in 1970. He always said that he won the lotto the day he met her. You hear about people being high school sweethearts, but this was true when it came to Warren and Linda. From the moment they met, right up until the day he passed, they would hold hands and never leave each others side.

Warren began his teaching career in Ingham in 1969. It was there that he and his class of students watched the historic Moon Landing.

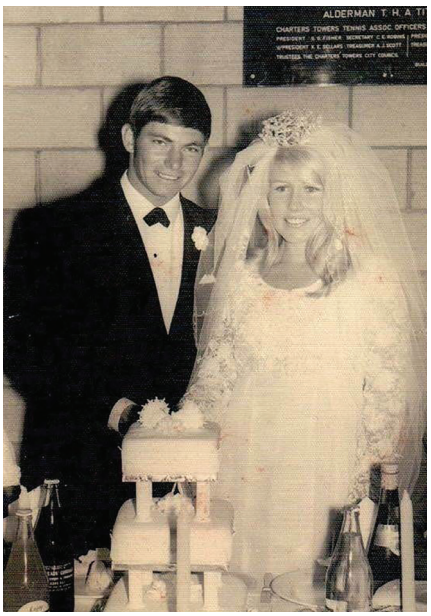
His homecoming to Far North Queensland happened not long after when he was then transferred to Yarrabah – where Warren would start a friendship with the people of that amazing community that would last for the rest of his life.

Not long after Warren and Linda married, they move from Yarrabah to Gordonvale to a house in Norman Street. Linda began teaching at Aloomba State School and the pair threw themselves into being the best educators they could be, and set about starting

Warren Pitt AM and his son Curtis Pitt

**"BY DRAWING A LINE IN THE SAND AND BEING A LOVING AND GENTLE HUSBAND AND FATHER, HE BROKE THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE."**

Linda & Warren Pitt AM in their younger years



Warren & Linda Pitt on their wedding day

and re-establishing a myriad of sporting organisations in the local area including Gordonvale Netball Association, Mulgrave Athletics, Mulgrave Junior and Senior Cricket, Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League, Cairns Referees Association, Cairns Cricket Umpires Association, and so many more.

In the end Warren Pitt was a Life Member of no fewer than 13 sporting and community organisations – one of the reasons he was recognised as the Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year back in 1983 and why he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016 for significant service to the Parliament of Queensland through a range of ministerial portfolio responsibilities, and to the community.

In 1989 Warren Pitt was elected to Parliament. He lost his seat in the 1995 election, but returned to Parliament after winning a bi-election in 1998 that gave Peter Beattie and Labor a majority government that went on to last for well over a decade.

He served in Parliament until 2009. And to this day he is still the only Minister to have served as a Minister in the Cabinet of the Goss, Beattie and Bligh governments, in portfolios including Business, Industry and Regional Development; Communities, Disability Services, Seniors and Youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Main Roads and Local Government.

*His time in Parliament was characterised by his tenacity, his empathy and his dedication to good government.*

And he was a great grassroots politician who was committed entirely to the people of Mulgrave who he was so proud to represent.

While he served well in all of his portfolios, he arguably did his best work as Minister For Disability Services in the Beattie Government, where he made a truly personal and outstanding contribution.

He took on the challenge of representing some of Queensland's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and he threw himself into the role, almost as a personal challenge - and everybody saw it.

Warren was an unrelenting advocate for all of regional Queensland and it is believed that his work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities was unsurpassed.

No task was too big for him to tackle – but at the same time, no task was too small. My father worked hard each and every day to ensure the voices with our community were heard by government and all options were explored on their behalf.

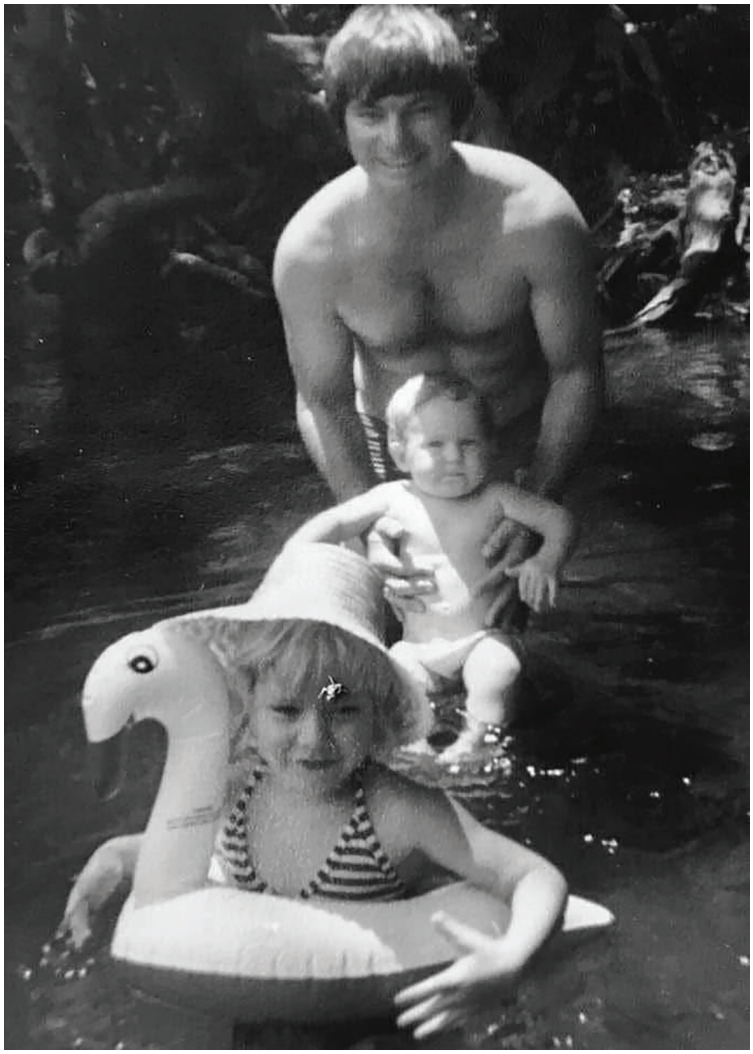
He was also proud of implementing the Blueprint For The Bush as Minister for Communities.

Locally, it was the completion of the MaMu Canopy Walk near Innisfail, the St John's Community Care Facility in Gordonvale, and his role in the establishment of Bentley Park College.

*Warren had a great sense of what was right and wrong from his days in the classroom and as a rugby league referee and cricket umpire – and he brought those same attributes into public life.*

Warren and Linda made a remarkable team together from the early days of organising sport and education

# Remembering The Hon. Warren Pitt AM



Warren Pitt AM swimming with his children. Warren is holding his young son Curtis and his daugther Dionne swims in the foreground

**"AS A MAN WHO LOVED HIS FAMILY – AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT."**

in the Gordonvale and districts area, right through to when Warren was elected to Parliament and Linda would quite often represent him locally while he was away in Brisbane or somewhere else in the state. His achievements were her achievements.

In 2006, he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2006. What many people weren't aware of was that he continued to serve as a Cabinet Minister – often undergoing treatment in the morning and attending Parliament that day. Or signing briefing notes and Cabinet Submissions in bed at the Hospital.

*The way he battled through his illness and continued to fight was an example to us all.*

Only a few years ago, he had another battle with cancer – this time bowel cancer which again he overcame. He had a severe bout of pneumonia in 2024, so serious he was put into an induced coma. But once again, he fought his way through it.

**The Measure Of A Man**

Warren Pitt was a gentleman and a true statesman. He believed in the power of principle over convenience. His actions were governed by a steadfast commitment to integrity, public service, and compassion.

In every conversation, he sought to build bridges. In every challenge, he met adversity with thoughtful resolve and a calm demeanour. His leadership was never about titles or accolades — it was about service.

He believed that genuine strength lies in the courage to do what is right, even when it is not the easy choice.

Curtis recalls, "My father was a man who listened intently and spoke with measured wisdom. In his presence, one felt both comforted and inspired. Whether offering guidance during trying times or sharing quiet moments of reflection, he taught us the value of empathy and the importance of community.

"His belief in the inherent dignity of every individual was a principle he lived by and one that enriched the lives of all who had the privilege to know him."

When asked what he was most proud of in his career and life, Warren would always say quite simply, his family.

"A great marriage, two beaut children and six terrific grandchildren."

Despite a lifetime of accomplishments and community service, when asked how he wanted to be remembered, he said:

"As a man who loved his family – and there's nothing more important than that."

"My father's example calls on us to lead with integrity, to act with compassion, and to serve our communities with the same quiet determination that he embodied so well. Though he is no longer with us physically, his spirit endures in every life he touched and in every heart that continues to beat with the values he held so dear.

May he rest in peace in the knowledge that his legacy lives on in all who's lives he touched. Warren Pitt AM is survived by his beautiful wife Linda, daughter Dionne, son Curtis and his six grandchildren.

## Sail's Soft Launch

Photos by CityLife Media

## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU:

# Embracing Fresh Beginnings in 2025

As the clock strikes midnight and we welcome another year, the mantra of "New Year, New Me" echoes across the world. It's a time for reflection, goal setting, and embracing new opportunities. Whether it's improving personal wellness, expanding business horizons, or seeking new experiences, 2025 presents the perfect chance to reset and refresh. Here in Cairns, local businesses are leading the way, offering exciting ways to start the year with renewed energy and ambition.

Cairns' beloved waterfront has a new star: Sails, by Hemingway's Brewery. Recently taking over the iconic Mondo's location, this revamped venue is set to redefine the dining and social scene. With a stunning backdrop of the Trinity Inlet, Sails is blending fresh, locally sourced ingredients with craft beer excellence, making it the perfect place to celebrate new beginnings. Whether you're raising a toast to your resolutions or unwinding after a productive day, Sails offers an atmosphere that inspires positivity and connection.

What better way to embrace the "New Year, New Me" philosophy than by broadening your horizons? MG Travel is making luxury travel more accessible than ever, curating bespoke experiences designed to rejuvenate the soul.

Whether it's an exclusive European getaway, a wellness retreat in Bali, or an unforgettable safari adventure, MG Travel ensures every trip is infused with comfort, elegance, and unforgettable moments. This year, why not make travel a priority and embrace the transformative power of new experiences?

For those who crave adventure closer to home, Retro RV is the key to unlocking the great FNQ outdoors in style. Offering vintage-inspired campers with modern amenities, Retro RV provides the ultimate road-trip experience.

Whether it's a weekend getaway along the coast or an exploration of the Tablelands, these stylish campers promise a journey filled with freedom and discovery. If 2025 is your year to break free from routine, Retro RV is the perfect way to make that resolution a reality.

A fresh start isn't just about personal growth - it's about professional evolution too.

The CityLife Annual Business Retreat is designed for entrepreneurs and business leaders who want to sharpen their strategies and set ambitious goals for the year ahead. With two expert speakers, networking opportunities, and tailored workshops, this retreat is the ultimate investment in your business's success. If your resolution is to grow, innovate, and achieve new heights in 2025, this is the event to mark on your calendar.

Knowledge is power, and Danae Jones Consulting is helping businesses harness it with their dynamic workshops. Specialising in marketing and public relations, these sessions provide valuable insights into brand building, media strategy, and digital presence. If one of your goals this year is to strengthen your business's visibility and influence, these workshops are an essential step towards making that happen.

With so many opportunities to embrace change and growth, 2025 is shaping up to be a year of transformation. Whether you're setting out on a luxurious escape, diving into a new business strategy, or simply enjoying fresh experiences in your own backyard, there's no better time to make a commitment to the best version of yourself. Cheers to new adventures, new goals, and a brand-new you!

Sails
CAIRNS

where
Ocean Breeze
& Unique Flavours
unite

OPEN FOR
LUNCH & DINNER

FROM
12PM TO LATE

Sails brings a unique, new dining experience to the heart of Cairns. Indulge in fresh, innovative Nikkei-inspired flavours showcased by Peruvian & Japanese cuisine fusion, rare & fine wines, handcrafted cocktails, and a stunning oceanfront setting.

BOOK NOW!

Ph 0403 441 669

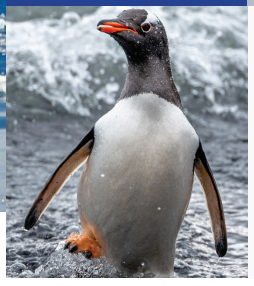
Email: info_sails@hemingwaysbrewery.com

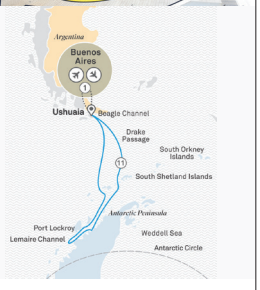
www.hemingwaysbrewery.com/eat-drink/sails-cairns

SCENIC ECLIPSE
THE WORLD'S FIRST DISCOVERY YACHTS

Discover Antarctica

BOOK NOW FOR A COMPLIMENTARY HELICOPTER FLIGHT.






BOOK NOW to secure your place in 2026

Antarctica in Depth

Departing: 30 November, 2026

13 Days  Ushuaia > Ushuaia

From: $27,880*
per person twin share

Embark on a Once-in-a-Lifetime Journey with Scenic Eclipse and Mercedes Gonzalez

Are you ready for an adventure that combines luxury, nature, and cutting-edge technology? Join renowned host Mercedes Gonzalez on an extraordinary expedition aboard the world's first discovery yacht, Scenic Eclipse. This is your opportunity to explore some of the planet's most remote and breathtaking locations in unparalleled style and comfort.

MERCEDES TRAVEL

Mercedes Gonzalez Travel
Call: +61 488 223 685
Email:
mercedes@mercedestravel.com.au
Visit:
www.mercedestravel.com.au

# GET READY FNQ

The *Annual* **BUSINESS** *Retreat*

# IS BACK!

**FRI 9TH & SAT 10TH MAY 2025**

**CRYSTALBROOK RILEY, CAIRNS**

Two jam-packed days of all things Business, Lifestyle, Inspiration & Wellbeing.

brought to you by

CityLife® MAGAZINE

citylifemedia.com.au

Enquiries: events@citylifemedia.com.au

# Meet The 2025 CityLife Annual Business Retreat Headline Speakers

## Daniel Flynn

**CO-FOUNDER - THANKYOU.**

In 2008, as just teenagers, Daniel Flynn and his mates Justine and Jarryd co-founded 'Thankyou.' to help bridge the gap between two of our world's extremes: extreme poverty & extreme consumerism.

Thankyou. became known for its breakthrough, viral consumer marketing campaigns — from flying helicopters over supermarket head offices to launching a pay-what-you-want book – 'Chapter One' to raise money to help the organisation expand, which became second only to the Harry Potter book launch in airport bookstores - but this was only the beginning of this innovative brand.

A recent announcement about Thankyou.'s plans to expand globally generated 2.6 billion impressions and 825 media features in 36 countries. Thankyou. has held the number one hand-wash position in Australia for five years and some of the highest category loyalty, which has helped raise $18.55 million for its impact partners.

Thankyou. was voted Number 1 by Australian consumers as the most sustainable brand, placed ahead of Tesla in 2022 (Mumbrella, 2022). With over 35 disruptive, design-led and sustainable consumer products across the personal care and home cleaning categories, Thankyou. has to date given $18.1M (AUD) to charities from products sold in Australia & New Zealand. After the proven success of the social enterprise business model, Thankyou. is now launching across the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Daniel Flynn has spoken in global forums around the world, most notably alongside US President Barack Obama. He has been recognised in Forbes Asia 30 under 30 for Social Entrepreneurship, one of JCI's 10 Outstanding Young People of the World, and was the recipient of EY Entrepreneur of the Year (Southern Region).

*Consumerism reimagined is what Thankyou. is all about and the founders say:"We live in a world of extremes. Thankyou. exists to bridge two of them."*

## Jane Caro AM

Jane Caro AM is a Walkley award-winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, feminist, public education activist and social commentator. For 35 years, she was a multi-award-winning advertising copywriter. For seven years she was an academic teaching Advertising Creative in the School of Communication Arts at Western Sydney University. In recent years, she has become most well-known for her media appearances and thought-provoking books. When she isn't writing novels, she is a full time columnist, speaker, MC and TV, radio and media commentator.

During her remarkable career, Jane Caro has published 13 books. Her first foray into adult fiction, published in 2022, The Mother continues to be a best seller. She has written books on a variety of subjects, including schools and education, religion, feminism and ageing. Jane created and edited Unbreakable featuring stories women writers had never told before, the stories so intimate and shocking caused a wave of enquiry, all published just before the Harvey Weinstein revelations. Her latest novel is due out in April this year.

One thing Jane Caro is renowned for is her frank and honest approach to understanding the Baby Boomer demographic. Jane is well-published in commenting that this cohort represents a remarkable opportunity for business owners and marketers when pinpointing how to best spend their advertising dollars.

Jane Caro appears frequently on ABC Radio, The Drum, Sunrise & Weekend Sunrise. She created and presented five documentary series for ABC Compass, airing in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. She and Catherine Fox present a popular podcast with Podcast One, Austereo Women With Clout and she writes regular columns in Nine Newspapers and her opinion pieces appear regularly in The Saturday Paper, The Guardian and The Big Smoke.

Jane Caro is on the boards of Bell Shakespeare and The Public Education Foundation. In her spare time, she is a beef producer and timber grower.

*"This cohort represents a remarkable opportunity for business owners and marketers when pinpointing how to best spend their advertising dollars."*

# New Year, New Adventures!

**Book your 2025 getaway with Retro RV Cairns!**

Explore our backyard in the iconic blue retro kombi van Ivy!

**RETRO RV**
Cairns

*Book now via Camplify*

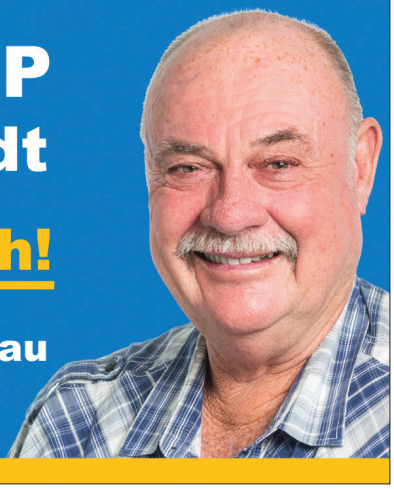
@retrorvcairns

# Warren ENTSCH MP

## Federal Member for Leichhardt

**Got a federal issue? Get in touch!**

07 4051 2220 warren.entsch.mp@aph.gov.au



Authorised by W. Entsch, Liberal National Party of Queensland, 200 Mulgrave Road, Westcourt QLD 4870

## Danae Jones Consulting Training Programs

# BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**Open To The Public** | **STRICTLY LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE**

**DJC Training Programs are suited to:**

- Business Owners
- Business Managers
- Marketing Managers
- Spokespeople of organisations

brought to you by

**DANAE JONES**
CONSULTING
360° MARKETING

**www.danaejones.com.au**

**For more info contact Victoria Jennings (Event Manager)**

e: events@danaejones.com.au

# Loving support is everything

## MEET JEREMY NEAL

Words by Janie Barton

The value of the love and support you receive from your loved ones cannot be underestimated, especially when you are thinking about making a major change in your life.

Just ask father-of-three Jeremy Neal.

The paramedic and former Cairns Regional Council member would never have thrown his hat into the ring to represent Leichhardt for the Liberal National Party at the next Federal Government election if it wasn't for the backing, encouragement and love from his family, especially his wife Leanna.

Funnily enough, he told Leanna he'd like to get into politics on their first date.

"On our first date he did tell me he was political and interested in what was happening in and around the world, and that was something that I had to be prepared for in the future - that he would consider running for something politically," Leanna, a registered nurse working in theatre at the Cairns Private Hospital, said. "I kind of laughed it off being a first date.

"But here we are."

The family-orientated couple spend as much time as they can outdoors, camping throughout the region with their three boys in their camping trailer.

"When we're not working, we love going camping to places like Davies Creek and Chillagoe Station," Jeremy said. "It's really good to light the campfire and get out with family and friends. We don't sit in front of the TV much. We just get on with life and focus on those weekends away outdoors."

Jeremy said it was Leanna who encouraged him to put his hand up for pre-selection, which he won in June 2024. He said doing so is a "huge gamble" as the government's constitutional requirement is you can't run while working and receiving a pay check. That's what made his decision even more of a challenge.

"It wasn't an overnight decision," Jeremy said. "I had a couple of people approach me and suggest I should nominate. Originally, as a family, we were a bit hesitant around it all as it's a long time away at Canberra, time away from my family.

"I put the decision on to Leanna because when I have to go to Canberra, she's the one left holding the fort."

Jeremy served briefly on Cairns Regional Council as a Unity Team councillor for Division 4 after he was chosen to fill a casual vacancy in January 2024 but was unsuccessful in keeping that seat in the March election.

"I only had four months with Council and afterwards Leanna said that's the happiest, she'd ever seen me," he said.

*"She was the one who gave me the final blessing to run for LNP's Leichhardt electorate and said to go for it. And so, here we are."*

They both knew the changes the nomination and his possible election would bring into their lives especially with Leanna working full time and both taking care of three boys – Taj, 15, Kai, 12, and Winston, four

"You have to spend about 20 weeks a year in Canberra," Jeremy said. "That's the true parliamentary work that you're elected to do. Then when you come home, you still have to cover a huge area, about 150,000sq km, and you need to talk to as many people as possible, so you know the people and their issues.

"Leanna and I have some rules around how we are going to do it if I get selected. We want to make sure that our family is a huge, huge priority."

Leanna has joined his campaign trail, letter box dropping (even in downpours!) and often travels with him.

"It's definitely busy, and it's definitely not for someone that's not 100 per cent committed and behind their significant other to be doing because it puts extra pressure on our family," she said.

"I believe Jeremy is the right person for the job, so as a partner you're always going to get in and give 100 per cent behind your husband to make sure he achieves his goals."

His and Leanna's parents also supported him to change careers.

His parents, who live in South Queensland, were not only supportive but gave him some wise advice.

"We had a really long chat about making sure I maintain my family life," Jeremy said. "You don't have to dig deep to find politicians that have destroyed families and friendships with their work life."

Leanna's parents are hands on helping out with the children.

They sold their unit in town and moved into a self-contained granny flat on Jeremy and Leanna's property to be close.

"My parents are a great support base of us," Leanna said. "They're a huge help with the kids, and we're very appreciative of their help.

"The kids love it. It helps keep my parents more active, and the bond our boys have with them is amazing."

And, of course, they needed the support of their eldest sons.

"While they're still teenagers and don't really understand it all, we explained that the decisions I face may affect them when they get older, like going off to war and maternity leave, different things," Jeremy said.

"They're pretty good about it, and they understand they'll be some tough times ahead if I get elected, but they are tough boys."

As a paramedic with Queensland Ambulance Service for 15 years working in Cairns, Mossman, Mareeba, Kuranda, Cooktown and Bamaga, Jeremy has seen both the good and the bad.

He said his top priority if elected is to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

"While our region is a beautiful place to live, there's still many of us doing it tough," he said. "Every day as a paramedic I'm in homes seeing people struggle with the cost of living.

"I see extended families cramming under one roof because they can't find somewhere to live. I see our remote residents stuck in Cairns for healthcare that they can't access on the Cape.

"When I'm not on shift, our family still faces the same issues. We know how much extra it is to feed a family now. We worry about the next interest rate rise on our home loan. We know how much it costs to keep the house cool in summer and fill up the car to get to work."

"That's number one for me, but there are a lot of other things I've very passionate about that I'm excited about announcing at the right time."

Leanna shares Jeremy's same views on his political priorities.

"As a young family ourselves we understand that cost of living is the biggest factor driving us to stand up and want to make a change for the Far North," she said. "Anyone who has a mortgage or rent to pay, put fuel in the car, pay the power bill and buy groceries knows it's getting more and more expensive, and I don't want to see families struggling."

Jeremy cannot say enough about the love and encouragement he has received from Leanna.

*"If I had to do it all over, I'd marry her again," he said.*

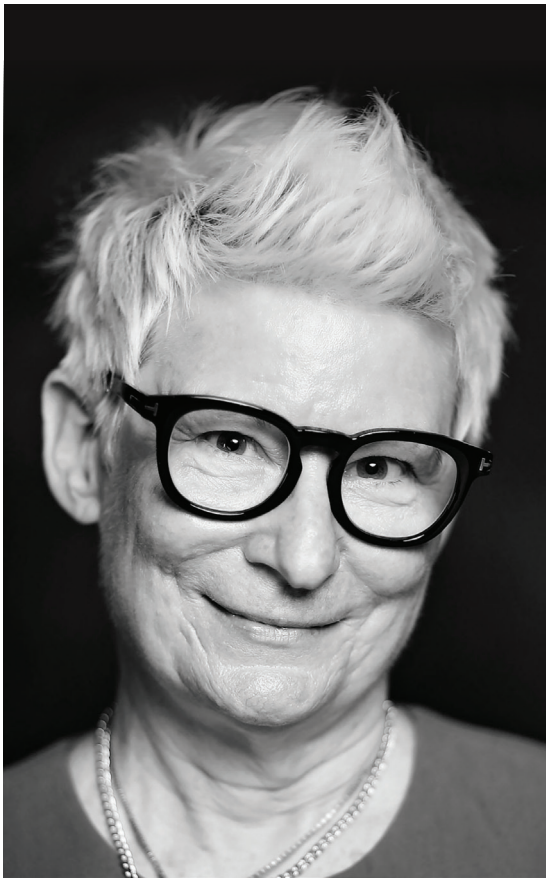
*"I believe Jeremy is the right person for the job, so as a partner you're always going to get in and give 100 per cent behind your husband to make sure he achieves his goals."*

# Discover your next adventure!

YOUR LIBRARY YOUR WAY @ CAIRNS LIBRARIES

Cairns REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Iconic JUTE Leader Retires



*"Suellen's contributions to Queensland's arts community will resonate for generations."*

For the past 30 years, JUTE Theatre Company's founding Artistic Director and CEO, Suellen Maunder, has passed down the reins ahead of her well-deserved retirement.

JUTE Chair Gill Townsend praised Ms Maunder's creativity, vision, and tireless dedication, making the Cairns-based organisation a national leader in regional arts and a vibrant company that has empowered diverse voices and inspired audiences for 32 years.

Ms Townsend said that Ms Maunder leaves JUTE and Australia's regional arts industry with a great legacy.

"Since its inception in the early 1990s, JUTE has blossomed from a small ensemble into an award-winning theatre company known for its bold productions, community outreach and dedication to nurturing emerging artists.

"Under Suellen's guidance, JUTE has become a beacon of creativity and storytelling, awakening an entire theatre ecosystem across regional Queensland.

"Suellen's artistic integrity has been at the heart of JUTE's success. Her imprint is not only in the theatre we have built but in the many artists and audiences her work has inspired over the years," Ms Townsend said.

According to Ms Townsend, Ms Maunder also played a key role in establishing Bulmba-ja Arts Centre and has long championed regional voices on the national stage.

"Suellen's contributions to Queensland's arts community will resonate for generations," she said.

Ms Maunder has been recognised with numerous accolades, including the prestigious Gold Matilda Award presented earlier this year, recognising her outstanding contribution to Queensland's theatre industry. Notable initiatives under her leadership include the award-winning Dare to Dream program, which since its launch in 2016 has delivered mentorship and development opportunities to First Nations artists, and the Driving and Activating the Regional Theatre Sector (DARTS), a three-year, artist-led initiative (spearheaded by JUTE Theatre Company in collaboration with a cohort of 50 plus theatre makers living and working in regional Queensland).

Reflecting on her journey, Ms Maunder said, "It's been an incredible ride, and my passion for JUTE and regional theatre remains as strong as ever. I'm so grateful and proud of our work together and excited to see the future unfold for JUTE and the incredible team of artists who will continue to push boundaries."

"I'm especially thankful to Kathryn Ash and Susan Prince for igniting the spark that created JUTE. Our partnership was the foundation of everything JUTE has accomplished," Ms Maunder said.

With Ms Maunder ready to close the curtain on her incredible run, the search for her successor has already begun. The JUTE Board is working with renowned specialist search firm AEGEUS to find a dynamic new Executive Artistic Director to lead JUTE into its next chapter.

www.phpfnq.com.au

POWERHOUSE
Property

# OUR MISSION

To provide trusted, ethical and dynamic real estate and property management solutions in the Cairns region by ensuring every single interaction is consistent, caring and respectful. At Powerhouse Property Cairns we understand real estate is much more than just a transaction - we are dealing with peoples home and their biggest investment.

(07) 4030 0120 | SALES@PHPFNQ.COM.AU | 108 HOARE STREET , MANUNDA QLD 4870

# Powerhouse Team, Powerhouse Property

Photo caption: The team at Powerhouse Property have been making waves in the local real estate scene.

In the ever-changing world of real estate, Powerhouse Property FNQ has made a name for itself by offering a fresh, personalised approach to buying and selling homes in Far North Queensland.

Founded on integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence, the agency has quickly gained recognition for its client-focused service and innovative strategies.

Powerhouse Property FNQ was born in the most unexpected way – on the back porch during a girls' night.

Founders Michele Annison, Kate Fern, and Meaghan Confait had always shared a passion for real estate and a vision to do things differently and shift the market in Cairns.

They saw an opportunity to create an agency that prioritises relationships over transactions, making the process of buying or selling a home seamless, transparent, and rewarding.

"We had all sorts of ideas about what we could invest in as a group. At first, it was racehorses," Michele said.

"Then we thought about an investment property - a doer-upper - since all our partners are in construction."

That idea quickly evolved. "Then we talked about starting a rent roll," Michele said.

*"And I said, 'Why not a whole real estate agency? Rent roll is one thing, but we could absolutely do the whole thing.'"*

From that moment, Powerhouse Property FNQ was born. Michele took on the financial side, Meaghan became the property manager, and Kate stepped into the sales role.

Like any new business, the journey wasn't without its challenges. The real estate market is constantly shifting, with fluctuating property values and evolving buyer trends. But Powerhouse Property FNQ has thrived in this dynamic environment.

"In our first year, we were like ducks on water - calm on the surface but paddling like crazy underneath," Kate said.

"The second year was all about consolidating, refining our systems and procedures, and bringing on some great new team members in sales.

"Now, we're looking towards even more growth, including training up additional property managers."

As the business continues to evolve, the team remains committed to innovation while staying true to its core values.

Meaghan believes that those core values are what continues to drive their business to success, and cannot wait to see what is in the store for the coming years.

"The whole reason we started this business was because we weren't happy with the level of property management we were seeing, and we wanted to make a difference," Meghan said.

*"We don't want to be the biggest, but we want to offer the best service for both owners and tenants … we take a very holistic approach."*

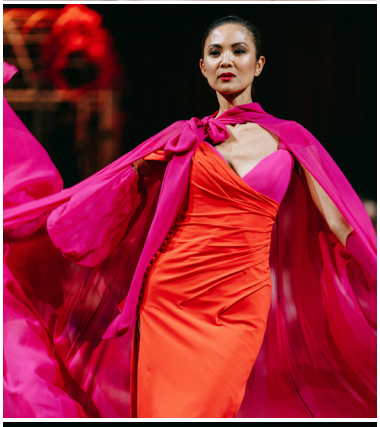
Every day, the Powerhouse Team continues to grow and adapt to the real state world, showing that if you take a holistic friendly approach to your business, you will continue to thrive.

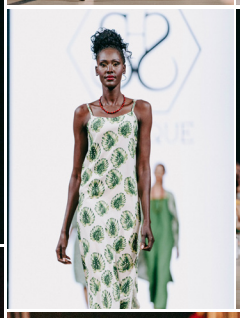
Whether you're buying, selling, or simply looking for insights into the local market, Powerhouse Property FNQ is ready to guide you with expertise and dedication.

**Get in touch with the team on 4030 0120**

# Cairns Fashion Week 2024

Photos by Tevacosic Photography





SENSE OF BEAUTY

# Say Goodbye to Pigmentation Problems: Unveiling the Power of DMK

NOOK MICHUEA
: (07) 4032 3121
: senseofbeauty.com.au

**Visit our DMK beauty salon in Cairns and let us pamper you with exceptional service, top-quality products, and warm hospitality. Trust us to make you feel good, look great, and embrace your confidence.**

Unlock the secret to flawless skin: Discover how DMK Skincare can eliminate pigmentation issues once and for all!

Are you tired of dealing with skin pigmentation issues? Uneven skin tone and dark spots can be a real confidence killer but fret not! We've got the ultimate solution for you – DMK Skincare.

With our innovative approach to pigmentation correction, DMK Skincare is revolutionising the way we tackle these common skin concerns. Let's dive into the world of pigmentation and explore the transformative power of DMK Skincare.

## Understanding Pigmentation and Its Causes

Pigmentation refers to the coloring of the skin, and when it becomes imbalanced, various issues can arise. The most common types of pigmentation concerns are hyperpigmentation (excessive darkening) and hypopigmentation (lightening of the skin).

Hyperpigmentation occurs when there is an overproduction of melanin, resulting in dark patches or spots on the skin. This can be caused by factors such as sun exposure, hormonal changes, and skin inflammation.

On the other hand, hypopigmentation occurs when there is a decrease in melanin production, leading to lighter areas on the skin. This can be caused by conditions like vitiligo or certain skin infections.

DMK Skincare is a renowned brand that takes a unique and holistic approach to skin care. We understand that pigmentation issues on the skin require a targeted and comprehensive solution.

DMK's philosophy revolves around the concept of 'Remove, Rebuild, Protect, and Maintain' – a four-step process that ensures optimal results in pigmentation correction and overall skin health.

## DMK Skin Treatments for Pigmentation Issues

DMK offers a range of professional skin treatments designed specifically for pigmentation correction. These treatments target the root causes of pigmentation and work to balance melanin production ultimately restoring an even complexion.

One of the standout treatments from DMK is our Enzyme Therapy. This unique and exclusive treatment utilises specialised enzymes to strengthen the skin, improve circulation, and enhance lymphatic drainage. Enzyme Therapy plays a vital role in treating hyperpigmentation by reducing excess melanin production and promoting skin rejuvenation.

## DMK Homecare Products for Pigmentation Correction

In addition to their professional treatments, DMK offers a range of Homecare Prescriptive products that complement and enhance the effects of their skin treatments.

One of our star products for hyperpigmentation correction is the DMK Melanotech Drops. These drops contain a blend of active ingredients that target melanocytes, the cells responsible for melanin production. By regulating melanocyte activity, the Melanotech Drops help fade existing dark spots and prevent the formation of future pigmentation issues. DMK also offers a Hyperpigmentation Kit, which combines potent products to treat pigmentation concerns. This kit includes specialised cleansers, serums, and creams formulated with ingredients such as kojic acid, vitamin C, and niacinamide to promote an even skin tone.

If hyperpigmentation is your primary concern, DMK Skincare has got you covered. Our specialised products and treatments can help you achieve a brighter and more even complexion.

# Save the Date!

2025

cairnsbusinesswomen'sclub

## AGM and Business & Bubbles

**Friday 7th February**

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Friday 7th March**

**visit our website for more info:**
cbwc.org.au/cbwc-events-page

cbwc 40TH ANNIVERSARY

# Millyard Family Lawyers are a Cairns law firm specialising in the practice of family law.

Director and Principal Amanda Millyard, an Accredited Family Law Specialist, has 25 years experience in the practice of family law.

Tailored advice is provided on divorce, property settlements, binding financial agreements (including pre-nuptial agreements), child custody issues and alternative dispute resolution options in family law matters.

Understanding that every case is unique, we find innovative solutions to our client's legal issue that are grounded in law.

We are committed to being of service.

MILLYARD
FAMILY LAWYERS

3/27 Shields Street Cairns QLD 4870
Tel: 07 4052 1945
Email: info@millyardfamilylawyers.com.au
www.millyardfamilylawyers.com.au

LEADING DOYLES FAMILY LAW 2024

DOYLE'S GUIDE TO THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL PROFESSION

Voted into Doyle's 2024 & 2025 List of Leading Family & Divorce Lawyers - **North Queensland**

QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED SPECIALIST

Queensland Law Society · Legal Aid · Family Law Section · FLPA

Cafe Veivers

FRIENDLY STAFF – FRESH PRODUCE – LOCAL GOODS - DELICIOUS COFFEE – BAKED TREATS – GOURMET GOODS - ICE CREAM – JUICES, MILKSHAKES & MORE!

PALMS SUPERMARKET

**OPEN EVERYDAY** 6am to 9pm!

**(07) 4059 2637**

@PALMSANDVEIVERS

# THE SOUTHSIDE

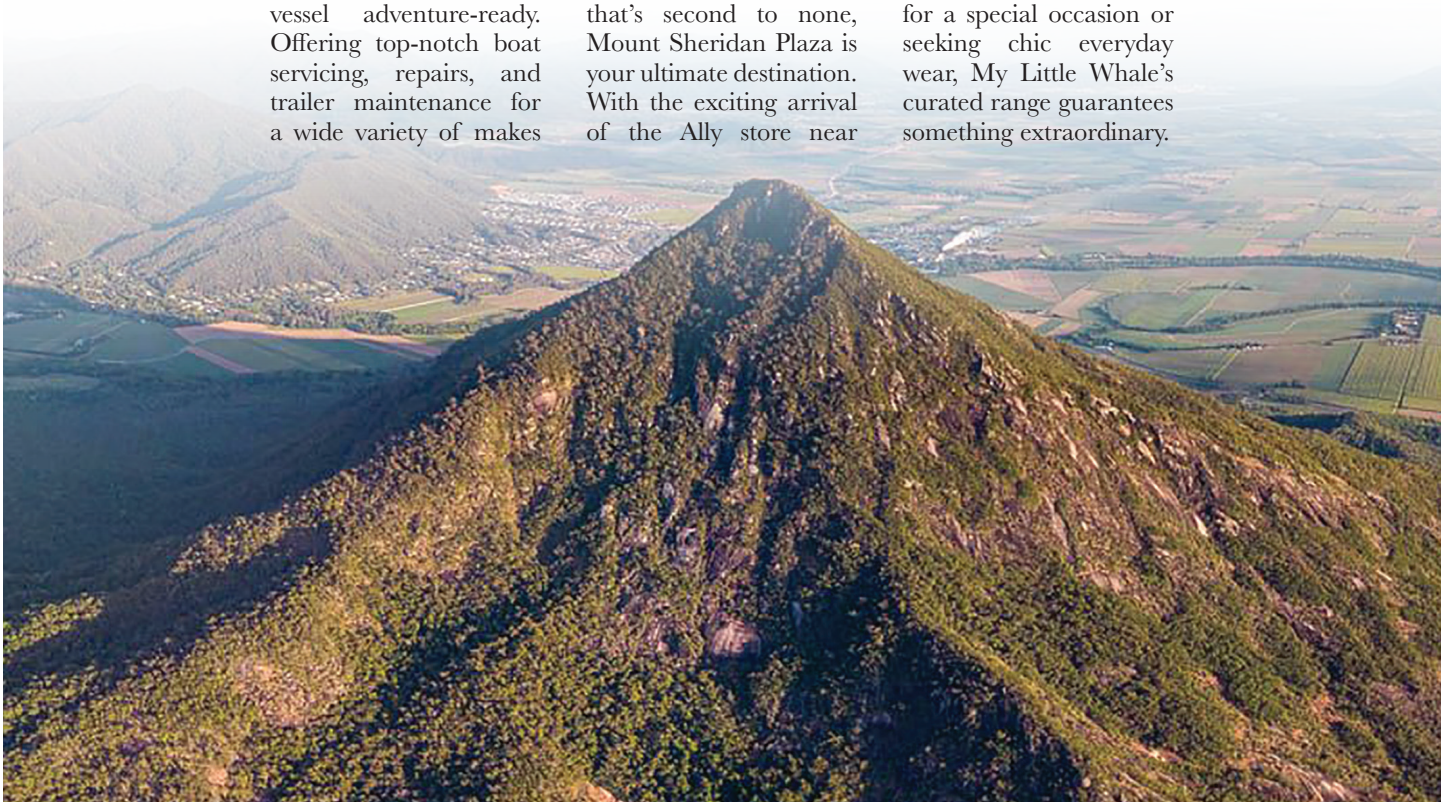
This Autumn, we're shining a light on the southside's dynamic community and its treasure trove of local gems, including HiTune Marine, Mount Sheridan Plaza, My Little Whale, and PhysioMotion. Whether you're an adventurer, a shopper, or a proud parent, there's something for everyone.

With cooler days inviting outdoor adventures, HiTune Marine has you covered for all your boating needs. Located in Bentley Park, their expert marine mechanics specialise in making your private or commercial vessel adventure-ready. Offering top-notch boat servicing, repairs, and trailer maintenance for a wide variety of makes and models, HiTune ensures smooth sailing every time.

Their well-stocked inventory includes outboard spare parts, marine accessories, electric motors, hydraulic steering systems, and anchor winches—everything you need to hit the water with confidence. Servicing Cairns and beyond, HiTune's mobile team travels as far north as Cooktown and as far south as Babinda. No job is too big or too small for their skilled crew.

For a shopping experience that's second to none, Mount Sheridan Plaza is your ultimate destination. With the exciting arrival of the Ally store near Kmart and My Little Whale, you'll find an extensive array of fashion and essentials for all ages, from newborns to adults.

Nestled within Mount Sheridan Plaza, My Little Whale is a charming boutique that's every parent's dream. Founded by Fiona Xu and inspired by her son, this store offers an enchanting collection of children's clothing for newborns to 10-year-olds. Expect to find adorable twin sets, cozy onesies, dapper suiting, and tailored outfits that are as unique as they are stylish. Whether you're dressing your little one for a special occasion or seeking chic everyday wear, My Little Whale's curated range guarantees something extraordinary.



HONDA
HiTune Marine
Ph: 07 4045 3817
HiTune Marine is your local Honda Marine Dealer.
We service most makes and models as well as being dealers for Haswing Electric Trolling Motors, Garmin Sounders & Dunbier Boat Trailers.
HONDA MARINE
COMMERCIAL WARRANTY 3 YEARS
DOMESTIC WARRANTY 7 YEARS
3/35 Supply Road, Bentley Park
admin@hitunemarine.com
www.hitunemarine.com

5 YEAR
Anniversary Sale
ALL OF APRIL
1ST-6TH
ONE YEAR OLD SET
50% OFF
7TH-13TH
CUSTOMISED SHIRT PRINTING
20% OFF
my little whale
kids fashion boutique
14TH-20TH
BOY PARTY FORMAL SET
20% OFF
22IST-30TH
GIRL PARTY FORMAL DRESS
20% OFF
Our store can customised anything you want, put it on the shirt or tumble.
SHIRT PRINTING FOR ANY OCCASION, BIRTHDAY PARTY, WEDDING, FUNERAL OR CELEBRATION SPECIAL DAY.
MOUNT SHERIDAN PLAZA
0413 820 718
SHOW THIS AD IN STORE TO RECEIVE
20% OFF
ON FULL PRICE ITEM.

# Edge Hill

## A PLACE TO BE EXPERIENCED

Nestled amidst lush tropical gardens, Edge Hill is a charming village and thriving suburb brimming with unique businesses, including inviting restaurants, cosy cafés, and delightful gift shops. This picturesque destination is a hub for locals and visitors alike, offering an unforgettable experience.

**EDGE HILL'S MULTICULTURAL DINING SCENE IS A TRUE STANDOUT, FEATURING A VARIETY OF RESTAURANTS SERVING UP DELECTABLE CUISINE, CREATIVE COCKTAILS, AND WARM, FRIENDLY SERVICE. WHETHER IT'S A FAMILY GATHERING, A CATCH-UP WITH FRIENDS, OR A WORK DINNER, THIS VIBRANT VILLAGE OFFERS THE PERFECT SETTING TO COME TOGETHER AND ENJOY A MEAL.**

At the heart of Edge Hill lies Kynd Studio—a sanctuary of calm and connection. Designed to inspire holistic wellness, this studio encourages daily movement and self-kindness through its diverse range of classes, including Yoga, Pilates, Barre, and Meditation.

Under the expert guidance of Claudia Richardson, Kynd Studio has built a reputation for offering transformative experiences that nurture both body and mind. In exciting news for the northside, Kynd Studio has just opened their new location in Stratford, bringing their philosophy of mindful movement to even more people.

While Kynd Studio helps you find balance in life, A1 Bookkeeping Cairns, conveniently located in nearby Whitfield, ensures your financial balance is taken care of. Every business owner knows how essential a good bookkeeper is, and the experienced team at A1 Bookkeeping delivers tailored solutions to meet your needs.

From managing all your bookkeeping tasks to providing assistance during busy periods or BAS time, A1 Bookkeeping Cairns prides itself on quality, personalised service. They're your go-to for peace of mind when it comes to business finances.

Edge Hill is also home to two unmissable stops: Fresh in the Village and NewsXpress.

Fresh in the Village is a gourmet delicatessen offering an incredible array of cheeses, smallgoods, continental paninis, cold-pressed juices, artisan breads, and gourmet groceries. They also stock fresh flowers, elegant homewares, and curated grazing boards and gift boxes — a true entertainer's dream.

Next door, NewsXpress is a treasure trove of gifts, perfect for all ages. Known for its stunning Christmas decorations, this store is packed with surprises, from greeting cards and wrapping paper to collectable homewares and unique giftware. It's the ideal place to find something special for even the hardest-to-shop-for person in your life.

With its vibrant businesses, stunning Botanic Gardens, scenic walking tracks, and the cultural hotspot of the Tanks Arts Centre precinct, Edge Hill is more than just a suburb — it's a destination. Be sure to explore its regular markets, immerse yourself in its community spirit, and experience all that this beautiful area has to offer.

KYNDNESS • INTEGRITY • INTELLIGENCE • COMMUNITY

be kynd.

20% OFF FOUNDING MEMBERSHIPS
AVAILABLE NOW

DON'T MISS OUT–20% OFF ENDS SOON!

PILATES MAT
YOGA ASANA
BREATHWORK
BARRE
YIN YOGA
NEW REFORMER PILATES
TEACHER TRAININGS

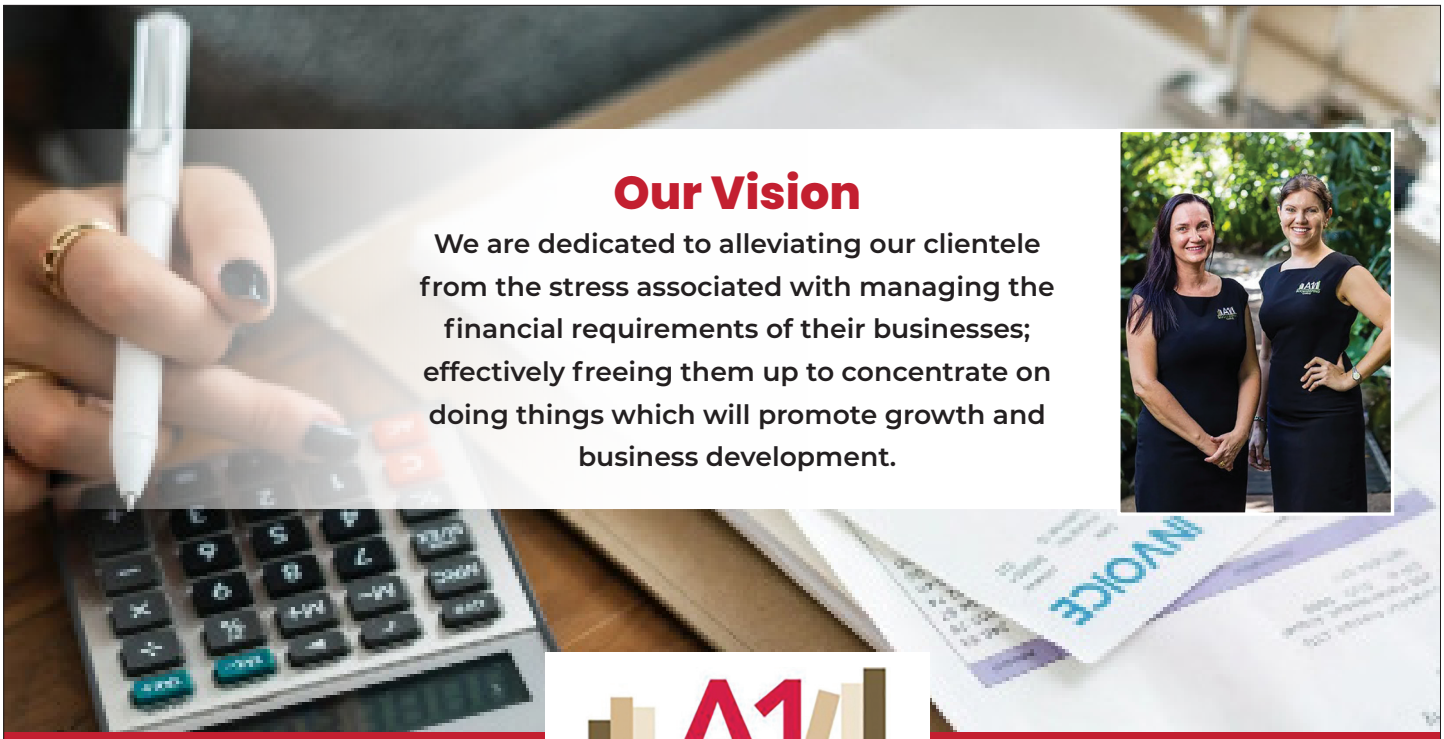
kynd STUDIOS™

LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR MOVEMENT
OF MOVEMENT

WWW.KYNDSTUDIOS.COM.AU

9/120 COLLINS AVENUE EDGE HILL QLD & NEW STRATFORD STUDIO

HELLO@KYNDSTUDIO.COM.AU



## Our Vision

We are dedicated to alleviating our clientele from the stress associated with managing the financial requirements of their businesses; effectively freeing them up to concentrate on doing things which will promote growth and business development.



A1 BOOKKEEPING CAIRNS

Ph: 07 4221 3311
3/178 McManus Street, Whitfield

Office hours:
9am – 2:30pm Monday to Friday

www.a1bookkeepingcairns.com.au

# MMC HR

HUMAN RESOURCES

## AT MMC HR SERVICES,

we're here to help you navigate the complexities of employing people, so you don't have to figure it out alone. From **hiring and onboarding to performance**, **compliance**, and **offboarding**, we provide expert support at every stage of the **employment lifecycle**.

We also help businesses implement **HR systems and processes** that improve efficiency, ensure compliance, and support a positive workplace culture.

Whether you need **contracts**, **policies**, **workplace advice**, or **a full HR strategy**, MMC HR Services provides practical solutions tailored to your business.

0431 610 386 www.mmchr.com.au

Practical HR for SMEs | Compliance | People Solutions

# The Friendly Face Behind MMCHR Services

Navigating the complex world of human resources can be a daunting task for any business, but for Megan Macallister, it's a passion. As the founder of MMCHR Services, Megan has built a career based on trust, support, and deep industry knowledge. While her official title is HR Consultant, she prefers the term HR Advisor —a reflection of the lasting relationships she builds with her clients.

"I see myself as a partner to the businesses I work with," Megan says. "I don't just come and go; I stay connected with my clients, even when there isn't a specific project. I want to be a trusted advisor they can turn to."

Megan's journey to launching MMCHR Services wasn't the result of a long-planned strategy. It was, in many ways, a necessary pivot.

"In late 2021, I found myself at a crossroads," she said.

"The pandemic had been an incredibly challenging time for everyone, but especially for those of us in HR. We had to navigate constant legislative changes, support businesses and employees, and adapt to an ever-shifting landscape. It was exhausting."

After experiencing burnout and struggling with anxiety, Megan took an eight-week break from work to reset. During that time, she kept hearing from small business owners who were frustrated by the lack of timely and effective HR support. Many were paying for HR services but weren't getting the guidance they needed.

"I realised that I had over 20 years of experience and a lot to offer," she said.

*"I needed flexibility for my own well-being, but I also wanted to continue contributing to my industry. The idea of supporting multiple businesses—especially within my community—felt like the perfect solution."*

What started as a temporary way to stay busy quickly turned into something much bigger.

"It just grew and got better. I didn't want to leave HR altogether - I love what I do. I just needed to do it in a way that worked for me," she said.

Megan's passion for HR goes beyond day-to-day personnel management. Her true expertise lies in compliance and legislation.

"I've been called the Compliance Queen," she laughs. "I find employment law fascinating. It's always evolving, and keeping up with legislative changes is crucial. My role is to ensure my clients are informed and protected."

While compliance may seem like a dry subject, Megan brings warmth and personality to the job. She wants her clients to feel comfortable and supported, even when dealing with difficult HR issues.

"I want people to see me as someone they can trust," she said. "I might be a bit nerdy, maybe even a little goofy, but I'm also warm and approachable.

For businesses, having an external HR advisor like Megan is a cost-effective way to access expertise without the expense of a full-time corporate HR team.

"The beauty of hiring an external consultant is that you get expert advice without the massive salary overhead," she said. "HR isn't a luxury anymore - it's a necessity."

Megan's dedication to her clients is evident in the referrals she receives.

"I have a client in Sydney who's been with me for three years, and they constantly refer new businesses to me," she said. "That's the greatest compliment. It means they trust me, value my work, and know I'll take care of the people they send my way."

For Megan, HR isn't just about policies and paperwork - it's about people.

*"At the end of the day, I want my clients to feel supported," she said. "I want them to know that when they're facing a challenge, they're not alone. I'll be there to walk them through it."*

With MMCHR Services, Megan Macallister is redefining HR consultancy, proving that compliance and care can go hand in hand. As businesses navigate the evolving workplace landscape, one thing is clear, having a trusted HR advisor like Megan is more important than ever.

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungc

Elevate your career, build lasting connections, and shape the future of our region.

Join the CYC community today and unlock your potential.

cairnsyoungchamber

cairnsyoungchambe

# Cairns Business Women's Club AGM and Business & Bubbles

Photos by Every Moment Photography

cairnsbusinesswomen'sclub

Big things are coming in 2025! **Cairns Business Women's Club** has an exciting year of events lined up - networking, learning, and inspiration you won't want to miss.
**Save the dates and stay connected!**

**Friday 7th March**
International Women's Day Lunch

**Thursday 3rd April**
Business & Bubbles Give Back Day

**Friday 23rd May**
The Success Sessions 1/2 Day & Business & Bubbles

**Tuesday 24th June**
Tropical Innovation Lunch

**Saturday 26th July**
Masquerade Gala Ball

**Thursday 4th September**
Business & Bubbles Women Who Build

**Friday 10th October**
Nourish and Nurture Lunch

**Friday 7th November**
Business & Bubbles Cairns in Focus

**Friday 12th December**
Food Safari Lunch

**visit our website for more info:**
cbwc.org.au/cbwc-events-page

**#1 COFFEE DESTINATION ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES**

AS VOTED BY CAIRNS POST READERS

SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND COFFEE DAILY.

# Great view, even greater coffee!

espresso&co cafe bar

espressoandco.com.au

40553021 | 115-117 Williams Esplanade Palm Cove Shopping Village | Open daily from 6am - 2pm

At Harmony Family Medical Centre
Dedicated to Community

we are *Dedicated* to the *Community.*

# CARING FOR OUR PATIENTS ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS.

FOR APPOINTMENTS, PLEASE CALL:
**07 4243 3534**

**WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!**

APPOINTMENTS CAN ALSO BE MADE THROUGH HOTDOC.

**You and your health are our priority, we as a team strive and pride ourselves in providing individualised, comprehensive and quality care to our patients.**

Harmony Family Medical Centre is a GP owned medical practice. Our doctors believe in providing holistic care to patients of all ages to improve their physical health, mental health and social wellbeing. Team Harmony will always be dedicated to the community.

**211-217 MULGRAVE ROAD**
**BUNGALOW QLD 4870**

**OPENING TIMES**
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**
**8 AM - 5PM**

EXECUTIVE RETREATS

*The Art of Tropical Living*

# Luxury holiday accommodation

In House Catering  Book Direct

FREECALL **1800 631 566**
www.executiveretreats.com.au

# wallfly Wins Best Use of Technology at EventsAIR Innovation Awards

Local company wallfly has won the Best Use of Technology award at the prestigious EventsAIR Innovation Awards. This accolade recognises wallfly's exceptional integration of the EventsAIR platform in managing one of the largest scientific meetings in the Asia-Pacific region. The award underscores wallfly's innovative approach to large-scale event planning and execution, setting a new benchmark in the events industry.

With over 3,400 delegates and 350 presentations, the six-day conference presented a complex set of challenges. wallfly addressed these seamlessly through its advanced use of EventsAIR's API functionalities. By streamlining pre-event planning and optimising on-the-ground operations, wallfly delivered efficient workflows, smooth registration processes, and a flawless attendee experience.

"Receiving the Best Use of Technology award is a significant honour, and it truly reflects the dedication of our team," said Dior Yarwood, Managing Director and co-founder of wallfly. "The 2024 ANZCA ASM provided an excellent platform to demonstrate how technology can elevate the event experience and ensure smooth operations at scale. We remain committed to staying at the forefront of innovation, delivering exceptional results for our clients."

The judges were particularly impressed by wallfly's forward-thinking application of API integration, which highlights the company's commitment to pushing the boundaries of event technology and providing clients with cutting-edge solutions.

In addition to this achievement, Grant Whitehead, CTO and co-founder of wallfly, was highly commended in the Innovator of the Year category at the AirTime Awards. This accolade recognises Grant's talent in driving innovation and guiding wallfly's technical expertise.

"Grant's contributions have been instrumental in delivering high-impact events," said Nikki Massadi, Global Events and Engagement Manager at EventsAIR. "His vision continues to set the standard for innovation and excellence in event technology."

The 2024 EventsAIR Innovation Awards celebrate the most impactful achievements in event technology, recognising leaders and innovators across three major categories: Best Use of Technology, Rising Star, and Innovator of the Year.

wallfly's recognition in the Best Use of Technology category highlights its ability to adapt to evolving client needs, combining smart digital technology solutions with creative thinking. The achievements affirm wallfly's position as a leader in the conference and business events sector, showcasing its ability to leverage technology to deliver outstanding event experiences.

**About wallfly**

wallfly is a leading event technology company with operations in Adelaide, Southeast Asia, Cairns, and satellite studios in the US and Europe. Specialising in delivering seamless, innovative solutions for conferences and business events, wallfly's focus is on enhancing the attendee experiences and optimising event operations. The team designs and integrates cutting-edge technology into platforms that streamline planning, increase engagement, and manage all aspects of event production. From in-person to virtual and hybrid events, wallfly collaborates with Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs), event companies, and venues to achieve outstanding results.

Founded by Dior and Janelle Yarwood, alongside Adelaide-based partner Grant Whitehead, wallfly has a strong connection to the Cairns community. After a decade in Adelaide and Los Angeles, Dior and Janelle returned home to Cairns in 2023. The company opened an office in the new Screen Queensland Studios in 2024, focusing on comprehensive business event management services, including delegate registration, event websites, mobile apps, speaker support, CAD plans, audio visual management, and studio recording services. With a background in audiovisual production and theme design, wallfly has evolved to meet the changing needs of its clients and the industry.

# Wheeling 140km Forward for Epilepsy Research

Words by Ellie Fink | Photo credit: Jessica Lockhart Photography

At 17 years old, Bodie Bloore was an avid long-distance runner and health fanatic, dedicating his youth to being the fittest and healthiest version of himself – until he had his first seizure.

That first epileptic seizure, while on Phillip Island near Melbourne with his family, turned the Mt Molloy teen's life upside down. He thought he would never be able to achieve his goal of running marathons.

But over a year later, Bodie's dreams are about to be realised. Now 19, he is taking on the Great Wheelbarrow Race, running 140km solo with a wheelbarrow from Mareeba to Chillagoe over three days – all to raise funds and awareness for epilepsy.

The Great Wheelbarrow Race is an annual event in the Mareeba Shire, paying homage to the 1800s miners who travelled between Mareeba and Chillagoe with a wheelbarrow full of resources. Today, it serves as a unique way to raise funds for charities of all kinds.

While most participants complete the race in teams of up to 15 people, Bodie is doing it entirely solo.

"It's such a ridiculous thing to run 140km – and on top of that, doing it with a wheelbarrow. I never thought it would be possible to even run a marathon with a wheelbarrow, let alone 140km over three days, running six to 10 hours per day," Bodie said.

"When I signed up, I was scared because I thought it wouldn't be possible. This is going to be one of the hardest things I have ever done."

Despite his nerves, Bodie is determined to take on his biggest running challenge yet to raise awareness for epilepsy.

After experiencing his first seizure, he was unsure if he would ever be able to live a normal life again. He lost his driver's licence and faced uncertainty around his future fitness and career goals.

Thankfully, after months of extensive testing in Cairns and Perth – where he now resides for work – Bodie was finally diagnosed late last year.

Now, he is passionate about sharing his story, which he shares with over 250,000 Australians.

"I had a few cases where I'd lose control of my arms, drop my shoulders, and my mind would go blank. I ignored it and put it in the background – I didn't want to think about it," he said.

"But because of that, it led to a seizure in February last year, and that flipped my life upside down. Almost all of my certainties became uncertainties. How am I going to work with this? How am I going to drive around? I haven't been able to drive for a year, and that's been a massive challenge.

"Now, I'm lucky enough to be medicated, but there are a lot of people who still suffer, who don't have effective medication, or whose epilepsy hasn't yet been diagnosed.

"There are so many hardships that come with this condition, and many people have to live with it their entire lives without the help they need. That really puts my case into perspective.

"I was talking to a girl in an Uber the other day, and she said her husband had epilepsy and would spend days in hospital because of how bad his seizures were. I feel like people don't really understand just how severe this condition can be.

*"I'd love to be able to help those people, even just in a small way."*

In preparation for the race, Bodie has been running several long-distance events in Perth, including a marathon. He will soon begin training with a wheelbarrow, which requires learning a whole new running technique with restricted arm movement.

"It's an entirely different kind of running because you usually propel yourself with your arms, but when you're carrying a wheelbarrow, your arms are hanging down and you can't push yourself," he said.

To those who have supported him so far, Bodie says he is beyond appreciative and hopes they realise the impact they are making for people like him.

"After my first seizure, I lost hope in my dream of doing long runs. But now, I'm fully medicated thanks to the research this charity funds," he said.

*"That has given me hope again – and people don't realise how important that is, not just to me but to the thousands of others like me."*

Bodie will be at the start line in Mareeba at dawn on Friday, 9 May, finishing his first day of running in Dimbulah. He will then take on the second leg to Almaden on Saturday, 10 May, before crossing the finish line in Chillagoe on Sunday, 11 May.

**To help Bodie raise essential funds, go to https://fundraising.epilepsyfoundation.org.au/fundraisers/bodiebloore/bodie-runs-for-epilepsy-foundation**

# Love For Our FNQ War Widows

Photo caption: Beneficiary Shirley and FNQ Legacy Legatee Ian Butler

Just when the team at Legacy FNQ thought Valentine's Day was a lost cause thanks to road closures near Townsville, an unexpected act of kindness turned things around. A last-minute delivery of freshly bloomed flowers brought a little extra love to the community, proving that even in the face of setbacks, generosity can shine through.

Rather than discarding flowers unviable for retail, as a result of transport delays, Peries IGA chose to donate them to Far North Queensland Legacy, transforming a logistical challenge into a heartwarming gesture.

These simple yet beautiful flowers brighten the days of Legacy beneficiaries, including aged care residents, frontline hospital staff, and members of HMAS Cairns.

More than 250 floral arrangements, valued at approximately $5,000, were distributed by FNQ Legacy volunteers, and among the recipients was a war widow who lost her husband a decade ago. Overcome with emotion, she expressed her gratitude for the unexpected gift.

"It's been a long time since I've received flowers for Valentine's Day," she said.

"This simple act has reminded me that my husband's service is not forgotten, and that people still care."

The goodwill extended beyond Legacy families. Residents and staff at aged care facilities, cancer patients at the COUCH Wellness Centre, Healthcare workers at the local hospital and members of HMAS Cairns were also presented with bouquets as a token of appreciation for their service.

"It's a small but meaningful way to say thank you to those who dedicate their lives to serving our country and community," said FNQ Legacy's Executive Officer Rebecca Milliner.

"For many in our community, occasions like Valentine's Day can be particularly difficult, as they serve as sad reminders of the loved ones they have lost. This beautiful gesture from Peries IGA not only provides comfort but also reinforces the message that they are not forgotten, and that the community stands with them."

Peries IGA CEO Sharon Griffin reflected on the decision to donate the flowers.

*"When we realised the flowers wouldn't make it in time for Valentine's Day, we knew we had to find a way to make them count. Partnering with Far North Queensland Legacy allows us to brighten the days of people who truly deserve a little extra love and support."*

FNQ Legacy and Peries IGA hope this act of kindness inspires the community to support local businesses that give back and to remember that even the smallest gestures can have a profound impact.

**Amanda Millyard**
Founder & Director

ACCREDITED SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW

Amanda Louise Millyard is the founder and director/principal of Millyard Family Lawyers. Millyard Family Lawyers is named one of the Doyle's Guide leading Family Law firms in North and Central Queensland (2024). Amanda has been practicing in the area of family law in Cairns since 1997 and has extensive experience in Family Law matters and is equally effective in negotiation, mediation and collaborative law contexts as contested courtroom litigation.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

- Collaborative Law Practice Workshop, 2012
- Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist in Family Law, 2005
- Bachelor of Arts, James Cook University, 1999
- Bachelor of Laws, James Cook University, 1997

Millyard Family Lawyers (MFL) are delighted to recognise the achievement of Jessica Ragh with a well deserved promotion from Senior Associate to Special Counsel. Congratulations to Jessica whose exceptional legal work, empathy and dedication make a great difference to our clients and to the MFL team. Join us in congratulating Jessica on this career milestone.

**Jessica Ragh**
Special Counsel

The College of Law
Master of Applied Law (Family Law)

Jessica has been working in Family Law since 2012 and has extensive experience in property matters (including high net worth & complex settlements). In May 2021, she moved to Cairns to be closer to her immediate family and to take up the opportunity of working for Millyard Family Lawyers as a Senior Associate. Jessica provides knowledgeable advice and is adept at negotiating and attending Court (when necessary) in Family Law matters.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

- Bachelor of Laws (Hons) – Griffith University, December 2012
- Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Cultural Heritage – Griffith University, December 2012
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice – Queensland University of Technology, December 2013
- Masters of Applied Law (Family Law) – College of Law, June 2021

MILLYARD
FAMILY LAWYERS

3/27 Shields Street Cairns QLD 4870 • Tel: 07 4052 1945
Email: info@millyardfamilylawyers.com.au • www.millyardfamilylawyers.com.au

# CityLife® MAGAZINE

## Far North Queensland's Premium Lifestyle and Business Magazine

DAILY in Digital
QUARTERLY in Print

We are proud to be the longest serving glossy magazine in FNQ… over two decades of supporting local businesses.

371 Mulgrave Road, Cairns Q 4870

www.citylifemedia.com.au

ONLINE TV RADIO PRINT